

THE North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

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CONTENTS.

Advertisements—Latest dates—Births, Marriages, and Deaths, &c.	
Arrivals and Departures of Passengers, Shipping, &c.	
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Cotton Manufacture in China	45
SUMMARY OF NEWS	46
EDITORIAL SELECTIONS (from <i>Daily News</i>):	
Sympathetic Hospitality	48
Spiritualism	48
Japanese Cleanliness	49
Inaccuracy	50
OUTPORTS, &c.—	
Peking	50
Foochow	50
Amoy	50
Hongkong	51
Canton	51
Yokohama	51
Queensland	51
PEKING GAZETTES	52
PUBLIC MEETINGS—	
Municipal Council	52
Kiukiang Landrenters' Meeting	52
AMUSEMENTS—	
Richelieu	53
No. 2 Co. Rifle Competition	54
Saturday's Paper Hunt	54
The Foochow Race Meeting	54
MISCELLANEOUS—	
Another Fire in Hongkong	55
The Projected Woollen Manufactory at Lau-chow-fu	55
Items from Indian Papers	56
From French Guiana to the Amazon	57
LAW REPORTS—	
Civil Summary—	
Mrs. M. L. King v. Mrs. J. H. Baker	57
Police—	
R. v. Alfred Newman	58
R. v. Daniel O'Farrell	58
R. v. Richard Smith	58
R. v. Mahomed	58
U.S. Consulate-General—	
J. N. Jameson v. Messrs. Olyphant & Co	58
F. W. Call v. Messrs. Olyphant & Co.	60
The barque <i>Venustus</i> v. Messrs. Olyphant & Co.	60
U.S. v. Thomas Henderson	62
Mixed Court—	
Systematic Felonies	62
EXTRACTS -	
The Pamir Mountains	62
Arctic Exploration	62
Armageddon	63
CLIPPINGS	63
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE—	
Tables of Tea, Silk and Cotton Exports ..	64
Market Report	65
Exchange Quotations	68
Share Quotations	68

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

LATEST MAIL DATES.

England, ...	Nov. 22	Hankow, ...	Jan. 11
San Francisco, ...	Dec. 3	Yokohama, ...	7
Hongkong, ...	Jan. 8	Nagasaki, ...	11
Tientsin, ...	Dec. 19	Foochow, ...	10

Latest Mail dates in England, from China.
Hongkong, ...

BIRTHS.

At Shanghai, on the 12th Jan., the wife of WILLIAM FORRESTER, of a daughter.
At Shanghai, on the 14th instant, Mrs. ARTHUR ANDERSON, of a daughter.

DEATH.

On board the steamer *Achilles*, on the 30th December, 1878, the beloved wife of JAMES GALT, Surgeon, Church Missionary Society, Haugchow.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Tokio Maru*, for Yokohama—Mr. W. R. Seaver. For San Francisco—Mr. Humphry Nelson. For Liverpool—Mr. H. Moore.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Newchwang*, from Amoy—Mr. Connolly.

Per str. *W. Cores de Vries*, from Kiukiang—Mr. Cook.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Hankow and Ports—Messrs. Wood, Twissim, G. Martin, J. S. Hatch and St. Croix.

Per str. *Hector*, from Liverpool—Mrs. and Miss Williams, Mrs. Shaw and child, Mrs. and Miss Burr, Messrs. Nield and H. B. Kaw. For Hankow—Miss Melvin.

Per str. *Hae-tung*, from Foochow—Messrs. Hannan, Bidwell and Whitall.

Per str. *Cyphreus*, from Hiogo—Mr. Elliott.

LEAVING.

Per str. *Iraoudy*, for Marseilles—Miss Anna de Buchenac, Messrs. H. J. Cook, L. Fragar, G. J. W. Cowie, H. Broeschen, H. W. Hagard, G. Elliot, G. Mahshy, J. W. Rothery, and D. Macgregor. For Hongkong—Messrs. H. J. Such, E. A. Reeves, and L. Nelson.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Hygrometer.		Wind.	Rain-fall in inches previous 24 hours.
	9 A.M.	Atmospheric Therm.	Max.	Min.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.		
Jan. 11	30.35	38.5	58.0	33.0	34.0	22.0	S. e. c.	..
12	30.25	39.0	42.0	32.0	35.0	22.0	S. e. c.	..
13	30.14	41.0	45.0	33.0	35.0	24.0	S. e. c.	..
14	30.69	45.0	55.0	44.0	44.0	29.0	N. E. S. e. c.	..
15	29.95	47.0	60.0	40.0	40.0	37.0	S. S. W. e. c.	..
16	30.01	45.0	55.0	32.0	35.0	31.0	S. e. c.	..
17	30.17	45.0	57.0	40.0	41.0	33.0	S. e. c.	..

EXPLANATION.
Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12, estimated.

PRICE OF THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD and S. C. & C. GAZETTE.—Per Annum, Taels 12; Six Months, Taels 6.50. Three Months, 3.50—all payable in advance. Credit price, Tls. 13.15 per Annum; Subscriptions will be considered as renewed unless notice to the contrary be given before the expiry of the current term.

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THE publication of the *North-China Herald* and *Supreme Court & Consular Gazette* commenced at 4.30 P.M.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, JAN. 17, 1879.

THE *Shên-poo* has recently enlightened its readers with regard to an Association lately started amongst influential Chinese in Shanghai to erect a Cotton Mill on a large scale for the manufacture on the spot of such qualities of cotton piece goods as are generally imported from Europe. The Association is under the auspices of Li Hung-chang, the Viceroy of Chihli, but we are assured, and have reason to believe, that the capital is mainly mercantile, and that the amount of "official" money adventured in the concern is small in proportion. The Association is to have the same privileges with regard to the distribution of its manufactures as are enjoyed by foreign imports, and it is to work under an Imperial charter legalising its position and immunities. So far so good, and foreigners will not be disposed to grumble at the introduction of manufactures into China—on the contrary they will probably be prepared to welcome and assist them. It is therefore to be regretted that in the correspondence connected with the organisation of the Company, we should be told that the object is to render China independent of the foreigner, and that charges, as unfounded as they are impolitic, should have been made against the merchants of Shanghai as a body—as being desirous to cheat—and that the promoters should be cautioned against their proclivities. That Cotton machinery will be one day started in Shanghai is inevitable. The district produces cotton in large quantities, labour and coal are cheap and inexhaustible, and there is in the North and

West of China a demand for cotton goods practically unlimited. The idea of introducing a new industry is, therefore, at once laudable and economically prudent, and needs no extraneous recommendation of hostility to foreign trade. If China can produce cotton goods better and cheaper than she can import them, the result will be a new source of gain, and her people will enjoy greater comfort and be able to employ their savings in the purchase of other commodities. There is, therefore, in the abstract no reason why other nations should look upon the utilization of the resources of China as in any way detrimental to their own interests; and as they are quite prepared to accept in a friendly way, and even further by their influence, the rise of Chinese industry, it is at least an error to represent the beginning of such industries as an act of hostility towards foreigners generally. In this respect we may ask the Chinese to look upon the reverse of the case. Foreigners find they can buy tea and silk to better advantage in China than elsewhere, and with this object they yearly pour into China vast sums of money, which go not only to enrich the people but to help support the Government. The stoppage of this trade out of an unfriendly spirit towards China we have never yet heard suggested, and the reason is evident. The import of tea and silk adds to our own comfort, and many amongst our people make a living out of that import and the other industries which it renders possible. At the same time, could we ourselves produce tea and silk on more favourable terms than China can supply them, we should not hesitate for one moment in adopting the more favorable market; and this we should do, not out of unfriendliness to China, but so that our comforts and our means of enjoyment might be increased by the extra facilities we should have of becoming greater consumers of other articles of utility or luxury. China cannot hope to grow rich by cutting herself off from foreign commerce. Were she deliberately to cease importing, she would very shortly find her export markets stopped; so that in endeavouring to avoid one imaginary evil, she would be entailing on herself real burdens. By all means let her introduce native manufactures. In certain goods she will possibly one day be able to command the markets of the world; but let her not imagine that her profit out of these is to be used to the

detriment of her neighbours. On the contrary, her gain will be ours; and our loss, should she attempt to introduce a narrow restrictive policy, will be hers also.

Summary of News.

There has been no mail arrival from Europe during the week.

A mail leaves to-morrow for Europe, by the M.M. steamer *Iravouaddy*.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

(Via Suez.)

Supplied to the "N.-C. Daily News."

Paris, 8th January.

The Senatorial Elections have resulted in a Republican triumph, 15 Conservatives have been elected and 64 Republicans.

London, 8th January.

The Truro suspension has revived the uneasy feeling. The liabilities are stated to be £500,000.

The depressed state of trade is causing a general movement for the reduction of wages, and there have been numerous strikes. 1,500 goods guards and shunters on the Midland Railway have struck.

12th January.

The Pope has issued an Encyclical Letter directed against Socialism and parliamentary discipline.

Prince Bismarck has introduced a Bill into the German Parliament which is aimed at Socialists.

St. Petersburg, 12th January.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* announces that the Amcer of Afghanistan will receive sympathetic hospitality, but that the idea of Russian mediation is illusory.

Bombay, 13th January.

The Deputy-Governor of Candahar has made submission and awaits the arrival of the British troops to surrender the City. The other officials and the troops have fled to Herat.

General Stewart has since marched through Candahar unopposed.

Paris, 14th Jan.

The Marquis Tseng has presented his credentials to the President.

London, 15th January.

The Midland Institute at Birmingham has been totally destroyed by fire.

Paris, 15th January.

The Minister of War, General Berthaut, has resigned, and General Gresley has been appointed in his room.

Bombay, 15th January.

The state of excitement prevailing at Khost (!) is subsiding. General Roberts leaves the garrison of the fortress two months' provisions.

We give below the result of the polling for the election of Municipal Councillors for the year 1879. Never was there an election in regard to which so little public interest was taken—a feature that may be said to betoken the true beatitude of the Settlements concerned and as saving them from the turmoil, trouble, and after discontent engendered by the ill-feeling born of contests. While congratulating the Ratepayers generally on the easy and comfortable manner in which the present election has been conducted, we may be permitted to express a hope that it will not be construed into a willingness—or

even disposition—to let things "glide" easily throughout the forthcoming Municipal year. There are plenty of matters demanding the Council's attention; and while the efforts of the out-going Council in the way of local improvements, both in respect of the sanitary condition of the Settlements on the one hand and the widening of the streets to meet the requirements of greatly increased traffic on the other, are to be regarded with thanksgiving, it is to be hoped that the in-coming Council will be equally regardful of the wants and wishes of the Ratepayers, and while keeping an eye on the possibility of reducing expenditure, do all they can to promote the well-being of the Settlements placed under their care.—As we have before stated, the poll was kept open on Wednesday and yesterday, on which latter day it finally closed at three o'clock. There were only eleven candidates nominated for the nine seats, and the result of the poll was as follows:—

	Votes.
Bell-Irving, J.	88
Howie, W.	84
Hübbe, P. G.	83
Artindale, R. H.	77
Little, R. W.	74
Vouillemont, E. G.	66
Sassoon, E. A.	65
Fearon, J. I.	58
Welch, J.	57

Forrester, W.	52
Kingsmill, T. W.	44

The only matter calling for reference in the minutes of the Municipal Council meeting, held on the 6th instant, is that the Police were to be instructed to see that ponies are not exercised in places where they inconvenience the public—complaints having been made that the strings of ponies led for exercise between the Horse Bazaar and Carter Road, "are a nuisance and dangerous to those walking or driving past."

The annual general meeting of the Mitho-long Hook and Ladder Company was held last evening in the Board room at the Municipal Offices. The meeting was called for half-past five o'clock, but, like Shanghai, it was a quarter past six before a quorum could be mustered, the Club, Skating Rink, and other likely places being visited meanwhile to pick up absentees. The members who ultimately assembled were Messrs. Rice (in the chair) Groom, Westall, Russell, Andrew, Fearon, Woolley, W. White, Allen, Low, Lavers and Reid. The business transacted was of a formal nature. The retiring officers and committee were re-elected, namely, Mr. Rice, foreman; Mr. Groom, 1st assistant; and Mr. Westall, 2nd assistant; Messrs. Low, Fergusson, Wainwright, and Bois, committee. The accounts, showing a balance in hand of Tls. 450.11, were unanimously adopted, and on the motion of Mr. Groom seconded by Mr. Low it was decided that Tls. 400 should be deposited in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and that no further subscriptions be collected until the same be reimposed by resolution at a future meeting, provided that a sufficient number of members consent to alter the rule relating thereto. Dissatisfaction was expressed at the mode of alarm now given when a fire occurred,

and it seemed to be the general feeling that the signals as at present given were misleading and inadequate. It was decided, on the suggestion of Mr. Lavers, that a letter should be written to the Municipal Authorities on the subject. Mr. F. J. Green, who is at present in England, was elected a honorary member of the Company. This concluded the business of the Hook and Ladder Company, and the annual meeting of the Mih-ho-loong Rifles was next held. In addition to the names mentioned above, there were present, Messrs. Valentine, Glass, Brodie Clarke, and Harding. The accounts showed a balance of Tls. 85, and it was resolved that this amount should be handed over, together with the New Challenge Cup and a small cup, to the amalgamated Company. The election of officers was deferred, pending the reorganization of the Corps. It was explained that the proposed new uniform had been approved by the Municipal Council, who would include in their Budget such a sum as would enable the incoming Council to pay half of the cost of the uniforms for the Corps, but the question rested with the Ratepayers whether they would bear the whole or a portion of the cost. Mr. Low believed that the Council, in only including half the cost of the uniforms in their Budget, had acted on a statement from the joint committee that some members might prefer to buy their own uniform, but he was in favour of the Council setting aside such a sum as would provide all uniforms.—A meeting of the joint companies was afterwards held, at which it was decided to have a Mih-ho-loong Ball either on the 17th or 24th February. A resolution was passed, making fancy dress compulsory, with the option to members and military and naval officers to wear uniforms or fancy dress. The following were elected the Committee: Messrs. Rice, Groom, Westall, Sim, Andrew, Brodie Clarke, Fearon and McLeod. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

We believe we are correct in stating that the long-vexed question of the new uniform for the S.V.C. may be considered as at length decided, and that it will be of the brilliant scarlet and soldier-like pattern of the sketch submitted to the Council.

The author of "Chinese Notes," in the *China Mail*, says, "A writer in the *North-China Herald*, in discussing the question of tones, speaks of the traces still to be found in modern French and Norwegian, and also of Greek and Sanskrit tones. The subject of Chinese tones is somewhat a dry one, yet there are persons to be found who view the matter with curiosity. It would certainly be of advantage to such persons if the writer in question would produce some evidence, however slight, in support of his statements. We ourselves have lived in Norway, and have a scratch acquaintance with the language, but we never heard any Norwegian allude to this strange (alleged) fact. And what about the Danish language, which differs from the Norwegian in little more than the name? As to French tones, our knowledge of that country and language enables us positively to declare that no such traces exist. The French have certain modulations of the voice, as have the English, Russians, and all other nations;

but possess no trace whatever of anything akin to a Chinese 'tone.'—The same author says:—"In a note upon the unsatisfactory character 青, the translator of the *Peking Gazette* in the *Shanghai Daily News* points out with great truth the difficulty which always exists in affixing any particular shade of colour to the character in any given context. In the State paper to which he refers, however, no colour is meant; the characters 青口 refer to the age of the horse, and mean 'of young or tender mouth.' 沒了口了 means 'no mouth,' or 'too old to judge by his teeth.' As to colours, 'gray' is a good translation, and, like 青, means almost anything."—A correspondent says the author of the above mentioned Notes will find much information on the subject of tonic inflection, in an article on the "Nature and Theory of the Greek Accent," in "Essays Philological and Critical," by the late Professor Hadley; published by Holt and Williams, New York, 1873.

We are informed it is in contemplation to give a performance of "Othello" at the Lyceum, Mr. B. Fairclough and Miss Elicia May sustaining the principal characters, the remainder of the cast being filled by members of the A.D.C. Such energy is worthy of all praise, and we hope to have to record as successful a representation as that of "Richelieu."

Yesterday was fixed for the hearing of the case of Frank Reid v. Messrs. Olyphant and Co., at the Court of the United States Consulate-General. The parties assembled in Court at the hour appointed, Mr. J. J. Henderson appearing for the plaintiff and Mr. R. E. Wainwright for the defendants; but Mr. Bailey, Vice-Consul-General, explained that owing to pressure of public business, and it being mail day, he was unable to proceed with the hearing. A postponement accorded also with the wishes of both parties, and the case was therefore fixed to be heard on Monday, the 27th inst. The action is very similar to the one tried a week ago against the same defendants, in which Mr. Jameson, an employe of the firm at the time they suspended payment, was the plaintiff, and claimed compensation for dismissal without due notice and consequent allowances, amounting in the aggregate to Tls. 1,013.33. Judgment is still pending. Mr. Reid makes out a claim in his petition for Tls. 4,150, whereas defendants, in their answer, make him indebted to them in the sum of Tls. 686.88.

Tuesday, at the Mixed Court, two proprietors of a gambling house in Hongkew, were ordered to be bamboozed, to undergo a year's imprisonment, and afterwards to be deported.—Two boatmen, charged by the river police with throwing mud into the Hwangpoo, were ordered to pay a fine of ten dollars.

An impudent attempt at extortion has just been brought to our notice. A well-to-do Chinese woman was stopped in the Foochow Road on Friday last by a native who represented himself to be a broker. He claimed acquaintanceship, and asked her to lend him \$20. She failed to recognise him and told him so, but he still continued

to importune her and told her if she did not pay him the money he would have her arrested. She ridiculed his impudence, and he went away declaring vengeance. Shortly afterwards he appeared at the Mixed Court and represented that the woman was his second wife, and that she had left him taking away property of the value of about \$250. Credence was placed in his statement, and a warrant was granted for the woman's apprehension. It was afterwards signed by Mr. C. F. R. Allen, the British Assessor, and handed over to Inspector Wilson, of the Louza Police Station, for execution. The woman was apprehended and taken to the Police Station, where she denied all knowledge of the man who claimed her as his wife, and on enquiries being made her statements were found to be true. Bail was accepted for her appearance. The case came before the Court on Monday last, when the whole thing was explained to be an attempt to extort money from her under fear of arrest, and she was liberated. An application that her persecutor should be punished was discountenanced by the Chinese Magistrate. The man has not lived long in Shanghai, and it is thought he was ignorant of the fact that the warrant would be executed under foreign supervision, otherwise it would not have been difficult for his roguery to have succeeded.

H.M. corvette *Charybdis*, Captain C. F. Hotham, has arrived in port, from Ching-kiang.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamship *Mongolia* took the following Silk:—For London, 57 bales; New York, 92; Marseilles, 27; Lyons, 59; Venice, 24; Milan, 35; Basle, 10; Bombay, 15; Singapore, 20; total, 859 bales; and 57 bales Waste Silk for London.

The China Navigation Co.'s steamer *Newchwang*, Captain Rothery, which arrived Friday from Swatow and Amoy, reports the wreck of a junk on the Ariadne Rocks, off Gutzlaff. She rescued five of the crew, and five others were saved by a native boat. The wrecked junk was bound to Chefoo with walnuts.

Yesterday's *Hsin-pao*, when giving an account of the late duel between M. de Fourtoun and Gambetta, states that it is customary in foreign countries for the combatants to sign an agreement absolving each other from all legal consequences in case of loss of life on either side, and goes on to characterize the proceeding as being of a highly immoral nature. It were well that our contemporary should know that according to the laws of England no man has a right to consent to the infliction upon himself of death, and that therefore whenever two persons in cold blood meet and fight on a precedent quarrel, and one of them is killed, the other is guilty of murder, and must on conviction be sentenced to death.

A report of the annual meeting of Ratepayers at KIUKIANG is given on another page.

A more copious report of the Race Meeting at Foochow, taken from the *Foochow Herald*, appears in another part of this paper.

For a variety of new from the OUTPORTS, JAPAN, &c., see other pages.

Editorial Selections.

SYMPATHETIC HOSPITALITY.

THE telegrams from Bombay and St. Petersburg, which we publish on another page, must be regarded as eminently satisfactory. The alarm which was sounded at the beginning of the Afghan campaign seems likely to prove a false one. And the disasters with which the British troops were threatened will, we trust, be found to have existed only in the imaginations of newspaper correspondents. It was easy to point to the terrible loss in 1842, and to predict a similar calamity in the present year; and, having settled that the expeditionary force was destined to ruin and discomfiture, it was still easier to imagine a dark series of misfortunes which would ensue and crowd one upon another, until the cloud no bigger than a man's hand in Afghanistan assumed the dimensions of a storm which should ultimately imperil our Indian Empire. A repetition of the tragedy of the Koord Cabul Pass was inevitable, and was to be followed by a loss of our *prestige* and a new mutiny of far larger dimensions than that of 1857. It is uncharitable to suppose that in any case the wish was father to the thought, but certainly the prophets of ill seemed to gloat over their sinister predictions, and to wax angry when any one suggested the possibility of our having learned something by the experience of seven and thirty years. The Altruists were in their element, and we could only wait and hope. Strange to say, however, it seems that hitherto all has gone well. The Deputy Governor of Candahar has made submission, and General Stewart has marched unopposed through the city.

But the portion of the recent telegraphic communication which will be read with most interest is that which announces what the Russians propose to do with the unfortunate Shere Ali. We have heard so much of the support which was to be vouchsafed to that ill-starred Prince, that we expected he would receive some substantial aid. Indeed, as we were told, fighting the Ameer was fighting Russia in Afghanistan. But Shere Ali has to confront another bitter disappointment and another heartbreaking humiliation. He was first to receive from the Czar men and money. This dwindled down into moral support; now, this vanishes altogether; and we are assured that the Ameer will receive "sympathetic hospitality." The phrase will not readily be forgotten, and the falsehood and coldness of it will probably disgust many of those who have hitherto clung with anything like trust to the Russian promises. The contrast between the vehement protestations of a few weeks ago, and this chilling repulse is too marked, and we expect to be amused by the efforts of the Czar's apologists to reconcile the discrepancy

between promise and performance. Further, it is interesting to know precisely what "sympathetic hospitality" on the part of the Emperor of All the Russias may mean, when it is carried out into action. Fallen Princes have occasionally met with treatment which really deserves this name, but we do not expect to find the Emperor Alexander treating Shere Ali as Louis XIV treated James the Second. Such an asyrium as was offered to the exiled Stewart deserves the name of "sympathetic hospitality;" and, indeed, to come to later times, the treatment of Louis Philippe and of the Emperor Napoleon III, by England, merited in a degree this cordial designation. The banks of the Neva or the Mosqua will not, we conceive, supply such pleasant quarters to the Ameer as James found at St. Germain or Napoleon at Chislehurst. We earnestly hope that the Prince will not tax the generosity of the Czar. He has certainly blundered of late, and perhaps deserves to be punished for his recent contempt of our authority; but he has been grievously sinned against, and our own hands are not clean in the Afghan matter. The faults of the past must not be forgotten in our treatment of the Ameer. Had the Secretary for India, under Mr. Gladstone's administration, acted frankly and boldly, we should have had a firm and powerful friend in Shere Ali. We have not treated him well, and though he has behaved badly to us, we trust that he will be dealt with on his submission with kindness and respect. We have little doubt that he will end his days in peace and amidst fitting splendour, if he elects to return to his old allegiance. A princely pension and a palace at Lahore will be better than the "sympathetic hospitality" of St. Petersburg.

SPIRITUALISM.

REVELATIONS of imposture coming thickly one upon another have gone far towards discrediting spiritualism in the estimation of many of its most ardent votaries. The opinions of the public, a body not very much interested one way or another, incline now in this direction, now in that, according as some notable man of science makes open profession of his faith, or as some almost equally notable conjuror performs without supernatural aid marvels as great as any claimed for the most gifted mediums. But the general feeling just now is that spiritualism has to be relegated to the class of epidemic delusions along with mesmerism, edic force, clairvoyance and the divining rod, whose claims have turn about been ignominiously upset. Discussion will not kill it, but neglect probably will. It is not long since Shanghai could boast several circles, but we have lately heard little of them, and we almost fancy that they are extinct. We need not fear therefore to wound any susceptibilities by writ-

ing freely about spiritualism, more especially as we have no intention of treating the subject in a scoffing manner. There is a respectful attitude of doubt and disbelief which it is perhaps difficult to maintain, but which is the only attitude suitable to one who tries to investigate causes which lie beyond experience, or who is content with the more humble task of registering the attempts of others. We cannot go far in the examination of any phenomenon without finding ourselves arrested by something not only unknown but unknowable. We are continually being reminded that there are more things in heaven and earth than our philosophy dreams of. Before modern analysis was invented, the unknowable was a relative term with a meaning shifting according as human knowledge advanced. But, although it may appear presumptuous to say so, we can now tell what it is impossible for beings with merely human faculties ever to know. Spiritualists occupy in part the ground covered by the unknown, in part that which falls under the unknowable. It is not denied that their doctrine of a universe, peopled by disembodied spirits possessed of mundane interests and influence, might be entertained as one of many possible keys to the great riddle, if there were not theories more consistent in all their parts which supersede spiritualism in philosophical minds. Scientific criticism, though deprecated by spiritualists, is not unfairly applied to their pretensions. For the ground upon which any doctrine may be accepted is not its intrinsic possibility or probability or beauty, but its power of accounting for phenomena, its power of predicting them—in a word its power of resisting the tests which intelligent scepticism can bring to bear on it. Even without the confessions of impostors who once held influential positions as mediums, spiritualism stands condemned for the triviality of the results it produces, for the mystery with which its professors surround their proceedings, and for its proved inability to cope with physical problems. An initial presumption against its claims lies in the fact that it descends in a direct, unbroken line from savage theology. As a consequence of the cultivation of scientific habits of thought, changing the range and power of the intellectual vision of the race, most of the faiths of our ancestors have been rejected in bulk. We look with suspicion upon occult agencies which refuse to be cross-examined and tortured. But a North-American Indian, says Tylor, would be quite at home amid the raps and voices of disembodied spirits at a London séance. He would see the members of the circle engaged in the practice, familiar to him, of manes-worship. What spiritualists now-a-days profess to believe has always been believed by the wisest and best among nations during their theological period, and by the uneducated of the most cultivated nations at all

periods. Even bloody sacrifices to elemental beings continue to be made in various parts of Europe, and few of us who have entered an English dairy have failed to observe the dish of cream set aside for the "good folk." Being unbound by spiritual influence when securely tied up, is as old as Ulysses, and continues to be a trick with savage religious mountebanks; in the days of Tertullian, tables prophesied by means of joined hands laid upon them; vampires and ghostly guardians of hidden treasure always announced their presence by raps, and by the same means the spirits of trees are, as we write, telling Franconian damsels what sort of husbands to expect. Tylor quotes from a sixteenth century poem a witch's boast that she could not only bedevil wells, trees, herbs and poultry, but make "stoiles to dounce, and earthen pottes to prounce." Indian literature is full of accounts of saints who floated in the air, and many Catholic saints betrayed a like levity. Bewitched persons were accustomed to do the same. Holy water used, we believe, to bring these latter incontinently to the ground, as in latter days it puts a stop to the gyrations of possessed tables. There is nothing new in getting up people who have been long dead. It is hard to say who has not attended a *séance*, but we can vouch for Hippocrates and St. Paul, Juvenal and Julius Cæsar. The ludicrous part of it is that the thoughts and language, nay, even the spelling of all such spirits, are those of the mediums, however vulgar and illiterate these may be. In one authenticated case, St. Paul's Greek was lamentably shaky, too overpoweringly bad even for St. Paul, whose Greek was at the best nothing to boast of. We need not enlarge upon the manifest absurdities involved in the belief that spiritual beings consume food, and occupy themselves in aimlessly flinging material objects about darkened rooms.

As spiritualists decline to submit to the tests prescribed by the experience of scientific enquirers those results which they claim to produce, it would be vain to ask how their peculiar manifestations are brought about. We can only speculate upon the reasons which induce people to believe that startling infractions of what we call laws of nature do really occur. Those only so believe whose appreciation of scientific truth is of the faintest; who, to take a concrete example, can see no reason why the three angles of a plane triangle might not be equal to a little more or a little less than two right angles. The condensed result of experience we call common sense, but when this is from any cause suspended we are at the mercy of every plausible delusion, and are but little removed from insanity. Some irreverent person has somewhere said that when a woman has a peculiar and precious religious gift, it generally means that she is subject to fits. Now it is certainly true that whenever the healthy action of the body or mind is

interfered with by privation of food, or of sleep, or of variety in the objects of contemplation, or by any other development of asceticism, visions and spiritual visitations will occur, and the power of criticism will be absolutely abolished. Sound judgment depends upon bodily health and vigour. From Siberia to Patagonia the most accomplished dealers in second sight are the epileptic and cataleptic. A hysterical condition allied to these graver forms of nervous disease is produced by "expectant attention," so that, though space forbids us to cite authorities, we are justified in saying that whatever one determines to see or hear, that very thing one will in effect see or hear. We exclude all imputation of deliberate fraud. The good faith of certain witnesses cannot be questioned. But the phenomena are subjected; that is to say, the belief in their occurrence can be fully accounted for by supposing that the judgment nourished by experience is crushed under the temporary sway of dominant ideas. These latter are, in fact, the spirits really present at every *séance*; and it is curious to note that, by them, Lucretius, two thousand years ago, accounted in anticipation for the present day beliefs of spiritualists. "Why is it," says he, "that when we wish to think of a thing, the mind immediately thinks of that very thing? Do images obey our wills and present themselves before us, whether we wish for things in sea or earth or even in heaven? Perhaps because in each moment many periods recognisable by the mind lie hidden, so that within any time all images stand ready to be called up, but those only come which the mind strains itself to see. It prepares for and expects what is to follow, and therefore the hoped-for result does follow, every surrounding circumstance escaping notice. Moreover, the widest-reaching inferences are drawn from the slightest indications, so that of our own free will we delude ourselves." (Book IV). There would seem, therefore, to be but one answer to the question, whether the rejection of spiritualism by scientific men marks a loss of knowledge, a degeneration from powers once really enjoyed by the human race.

JAPANESE CLEANLINESS.

AMONGST the medical practitioners in China and Japan, none have a better right to be heard with attention than the author of the "Report on the Diseases of the Japanese," in Dr. Dobell's series. Dr. Anderson has devoted much time to the study of the quaint people who have such marvellously interesting characteristics, but who, curiously enough, are perpetually being praised for virtues to which they are strangers, and blamed for defects that they are happily exempt from. For instance, the one quality which is invariably in common conversation assigned to the Japanese by universal consent is cleanliness. If any con-

trast is ever made between the Chinese and Japanese, it takes the form of a panegyric on the personal purity of the latter and a denunciation of the filthiness of the former. But Dr. Anderson has studied the interior life of the natives of the Mikado's Empire with great diligence for years, and the conclusion at which he has arrived is that the cleanliness of the people is very much exaggerated. The truth is that no Orientals are really clean, in the sense of the word which finds acceptance with the dwellers in the West. The mat-covered floors, and the painted screens and the perfectly fitted sliding doors, on the wood work of which not a particle of dust is permitted to lodge, look "beautiful outwardly," but we learn from the keen and practised observer that the "clean-looking mats are clean superficially only—the interstices of the *ta tami* are filled with dirt that trends more or less upon filth." And when we come to examine the persons and habits of the people, we find that they are by no means what Thackeray called "Companions of the Bath," but that their washings are rare and deficient in thoroughness. "Their daily ablutions, as any one having experience of Japanese inns will remember, are of the slightest description, a slap or two with a damp rag of some six inches square, and rising the mouth, constituting the whole operation. They use no linen and wear their garments almost as long as the threads will hold together." This neglect of personal cleanliness has, as Dr. Anderson points out, a very perceptible effect on the health of the natives, and if the authorities really mean to set about the great task of sanitary reform they must begin with an enforcement of cleanliness. Four changes are suggested as imperatively necessary. 1st.—The soldiers might be compelled to wear linen and to keep themselves and their uniforms clean. 2nd.—Some control might be exercised over the bath houses. 3rd.—The use of charcoal braziers in barracks, schools and public institutions might be forbidden. 4th.—The sanitary arrangements of private houses might be improved. We have quoted these hints because they bring out in distinct contrast the advanced state of Japan when compared with China. It is true, as we have stated, that the reputation for cleanliness which the Japanese have so long enjoyed, is one based on inadequate grounds; but granted all this, how wide is the difference between a people for whom a report like that of Dr. Anderson can be written and a people who have not a European health officer in their capital! We do not conceive that the sanitary advice promulgated by the Imperial Naval Medical College will be immediately attended to; but it will gradually find acceptance, and in all likelihood before many months have passed away one or two of the recommendations will be carried out to

a certain extent. Very likely reforms will be attempted in a superficial way, and perhaps they will be abandoned after insufficient trial; but as hypocrisy is a homage to virtue, so an extra scrubbing is a homage to cleanliness, and if rigorous cleansing is enforced for one summer, sickness will be lessened and a good example will be set. The stir and agitation on the all-important topic of Hygiene must be productive of some good, and we shall be disappointed if Dr. Anderson's warnings do not find some ears ready to receive them. Here all is different. It is hopeless to speculate on such a remote possibility as the adoption of similar measures by the Chinese Government, and it is dismal to think of the mass of corruption and abomination that would be discovered if any Chinese regiment, school, restaurant or household were subjected to the searching glance of a health officer with Western notions of sanitary necessities. The whole country is as foul as the German inn described by Erasmus.

INACCURACY.

MR. HERBERT SPENCER in his Study of Sociology refers with some emphasis to the extreme untrustworthiness of the witnesses whom the enquirer has to consult in order to obtain information on the topics with which the science is concerned. He names three causes of this untrustworthiness—firstly, carelessness; secondly, fanaticism; thirdly, self-interest. This remark is applicable to almost all the evidence which is tendered for acceptance in common life, and indeed there are few more lamentable reflections than those which arise when we examine the statements that pass muster in ordinary conversation by the legal standards of truth. The difficulty of being accurate appears to be enormous. To report a conversation as it passed, and to describe an incident as it really occurred, are really, though men are unwilling to admit it, Herculean tasks requiring a combination of gifts rarely found. Everyone knows the amusing game called *Russian Scandal*, which was a favourite amusement at Christmas time some years ago. Here a short narrative is written out and read in the ears of one member of a circle. The person who hears it passes on as much as he recollects of it and whispers his version of the story into the ear of his neighbour. The recipient of the imperfect narrative communicates as much as he can remember to his neighbour, and so on until the last member of the group is reached. This person repeats aloud the tale as told to him, and the fun consists in the contrast between the written narrative read to A and the fragmentary and distorted version of it which is produced by Z. The game is worth playing, for it opens our eyes as to the difficulty of accuracy. Oftentimes of course a witling will try to embellish the

narrative, but this is not playing fairly. The valuable lesson which *Russian Scandal* teaches is the difficulty, nay, we had almost written the impossibility, of verbal exactness. With the best intentions, men add some little circumstance which they thought they saw, or insert an adjective a little stronger than the occasion warrants, or confuse the transaction of one day with a similar transaction which happened on another day, or introduce some incident which they have heard since from another person but which they did not see with their own eyes. In these and a dozen similar ways men are betrayed into inaccuracy, even when they are taking some pains to be faithful and to relate what passed under their own observation. It was said of Dr. Johnson that he always appeared to be speaking upon oath; and perhaps if a person really gives his mind to conscientious efforts after scrupulous fidelity of statement his conversation must savour of the witness box. When conversation travels at all out of the beaten track and meanders along the pleasant paths of literature, the inaccuracy which one detects is of a different character from that which we meet with and censure in the lighter branches of talk, but it is irritating nevertheless. When table talk passes into anecdote, and the names of the sayers of good things are quoted or their repartees repeated, we find blunders thick and frequent. Wise and witty remarks are attributed without any attempt at serious verification to Sidney Smith and to Theodore Hook, to Charles Lamb and to Douglas Jerrold, and persons are represented as meeting who could not by any possibility have been contemporaries. The best blunder we ever heard was made by a governess. A party of British tourists, the typical Paterfamilias and his boarding school team of daughters, were making a continental tour, and one of the attractions to which they were directed by Murray's Guide Book was the statue of Ariadne by the illustrious sculptor Johann Heinrich Dannecker, which is to be seen, as all the world knows, in the garden of M. Bethmann, at Frankfurt. The family stood for a time contemplating the work of art with "a stony British stare." At last one of the girls asked timidly "who Ariadne was?" The governess was equal to the emergency, and replied without an instant's hesitation:—"Ariadne was a Grecian lady who was turned into a spider by Jupiter for contemplating Diana while bathing." It is impossible to surpass this as a specimen of muddled information, and it is grievous to think what fearful and wonderful specimens of false history, false geography, and false everything else, that governess must have imparted to her pupils. This is of course an extreme case, but inaccuracies as irritating are perpetrated every day in common talk in spite of the School Boards.

Outports.

PEKING.

The weather here remains very mild. Our lowest observation of the thermometer at night has been 19° F., by day 34°.

Two of the London Missionaries have returned from a long visit to Shantung, where some 300 persons were baptized, among them a dozen graduates. There are at least one thousand more names on their lists, applicants either for the initiatory rite or instruction. This is unexampled progress.

From Shansi we learn that the late rains in many parts of the province have done very considerable damage. In the 9th month, in four of the hsien in Tai-yuen-fu, it rained incessantly during the 7th, 8th and 9th, and on the 15th and 16th it rained more or less. The sun was not seen from the 9th to the 16th; many houses fell, the people in large numbers were dying of fever, and the millet crops were completely destroyed.

In Shantung, too, the Yellow River had burst its banks and flooded the surrounding country, filling up the old dry water courses. In many places it stretched continuously for twenty or thirty li and ranged from 3 or 4 inches to 1½ feet deep. The alluvial soil left after the subsidence amounted to 3 or 4 inches.

More snow has fallen, and the wheat crop may be said to be secure. Next year, the poorest will be able to eat "white flour."

9th Dec., 1878.

FOOCHOW.

The *Herald* says Ting Futai arrived from Swatow on the 7th instant, and entered the City in a very quiet unostentatious manner. His Excellency has been deputed to conduct an official inquiry concerning the Wushih-shan outrage, and it is to be hoped that he will bring to bear on the case all his reputed ability and impartiality.

AMOY.

The *Amoy Gazette* of the 6th instant chronicles the proceedings of a very enjoyable evening spent on the previous Friday under the ever hospitable roof of the German Consulate. For as many had invitations been issued as the spacious dining-room could accommodate, and forty-eight persons, amongst whom were twelve ladies, and the Commander and eight officers of the German corvette *Freya*, sat down to an excellent "souper dinatoire" at 8.30 p.m. Dancing was commenced at 10.30 p.m., the band of the *Freya* playing the most delightful dance music. At 12.30 a.m. a greater pause was made for a collation, after which dancing was kept up till half-past two. All present enjoyed themselves, dancing or otherwise, and went away with admiration for the perfect arrangements made and the untiring attentions shown to the guests by the amiable hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Bismarck.—And this feeling was rather heightened next morning—*sapienter sat*.

The A.D.C. of this port gave a performance on the evening of the 2nd inst., concerning which the *Amoy Gazette* says:—"Too much cannot be said in praise of the performance. The farce, particularly, was kept going from start to finish in a most spirited manner, and to judge from the applause it was much appreciated by the audience.—A burlesque is in rehearsal, for production during the race festivities."

The *Amoy Gazette* of the 8th instant, says, "To-day is an exciting day for the shopkeepers of Amoy, and indeed of all the cities in the Eighteen Provinces. It is the sixteenth of the moon; and on every second and sixteenth of every moon it is

customary to light a couple of candles, burn a stick or so of incense, and expose a trifle of food at the shop door for the benefit of those wretched ghosts which are supposed to be flitting about with no pious hand of friend or relative to cheer the darkness and warm their stomachs in the other world. Shopkeepers undertake this charitable act twice in every moon, in the hope of bringing good luck to themselves, and making business prosper; and as the present is the last occasion of the kind in the current year, it is made more of than usual, and is regarded with a mixture of hope and fear for the future."

Earthquakes would appear to be becoming chronic in Amoy and its vicinity, the *Gazette* chronicling another slight shock as having occurred at 9.47 on the night of the 8th instant. The vibration lasted about four seconds and was felt both at Kulangsu and Amoy. This (kind of) occurrence was (says the *Gazette*) before unknown to foreign residents here, but of late earthquake has paid us several visits and at short intervals. We shall doubtless hear of the phenomenon having occurred in Formosa or the Philippine Islands.

HONGKONG.

The *Daily Press* records the commencement of a cricket match between the Hongkong Cricket Club and the Officers of the Army and Navy. The Club, winning the toss, went to the wickets, where they remained all day, severely taxing the bowling of their adversaries. For the Club, Hynes rapidly hit up 51, and Munro and Dunman played two very fine innings of 77 each. On the other side Pearce was the most successful operator, but it was a warm day for bowlers, and the batsmen had it all their own way, their total score reaching the respectable figure of 266.—It is officially announced that the Hongkong Volunteers—on the occasion of a fire breaking out in the town—are to assemble at the Orderly Room and be marched off to do sentry duty in protecting property. Of course men who are members of the Fire Brigade will be exempt from this service, and those who go on this kind of duty will only be required to do so for one night.

The *China Mail* says that at the Supreme Court on the 7th inst., an application was made by Mr. Brereton, on behalf of Mr. Tobias Pim and the other partners of the firm of Messrs. Olyphant & Co., for adjudication as bankrupts. The case was adjourned.—The *Diario de Manila* states that the Spanish gunboat *Marquez del Duero* will take H.E. the Spanish Minister, Senor España, for a voyage to Canton, Macao, and then to Annam; and that in the last named country he will put forward a claim with regard to the str. *Zamboanga*.

The *Daily Press* says the *Iron Duke*, 14, double-screw armoured-iron ship, Captain Henry F. Cleveland, bearing the flag of Vice-Admiral Robert Coote, C.B., arrived at Hongkong on the 4th inst. On her entrance to the harbour, salutes were exchanged between her and the *Victor Emanuel*, also between the English and Russian flag-ships. The following are her dates on leaving each port since her departure from Portsmouth:—Left Portsmouth on the 1st August, and arrived at Plymouth on the 2nd; left that port on the 4th, and arrived at Gibraltar on the 11th, where remained five days, arriving at Malta on the 22nd, and leaving on the 25th; left Port Said on 2nd September, and Suez on the 7th, for Aden; and same night observed the English transport *Bengal* ashore, which vessel the *Iron Duke* succeeded in towing off on the 9th. She then proceeded for Aden, arriving on the 17th, and leaving on the 21st; arrived at Galle on the 4th October, and left again on the 8th for Singapore, arriving there on the 18th; after remaining there for one month, left for Penang, arriving on the 22nd November, and left that place on the 29th for Singa-

pore, arriving on the 2nd December; left Singapore on the 5th for Sarawak, where arrived on the 8th, and left the following day for Labuan, reaching that port on the 12th; left at noon on the 14th for Manila, and experienced a fresh monsoon; arrived on the 19th, and left again on the 24th for Hongkong, when experienced very heavy weather, which carried away jibboom, split fore-top-mast stay-sail and spanker, and received other minor damage, and ran short of coal; put back on the afternoon of the 20th, only having made about 250 miles out; arrived at Manila on the 28th; left again on the 31st, and had fresh monsoon to Hongkong. During her stay at Manila, the officers were entertained by both English and Spanish residents with balls, dinners, and other entertainments, following each other in rapid succession. A cricket match was also played, which resulted in a draw. The *Iron Duke*, has on board an Amateur Theatrical and also a Christy Minstrel Troupe, who will, in all probability, give a performance in due time, should the proposal meet with the approbation of the residents of Hongkong.

The *Press* understands that His Excellency the Governor has received instructions from home to proceed with the necessary works in order to place several of the batteries recently thrown up around Victoria Harbour upon a footing of permanent defence. The operations will be immediately commenced at North Point, under the superintendence of the proper officers, and there is no doubt the harbour will soon be protected in such a manner as to render it very difficult of approach by an enemy's ship.

The *China Mail* says the steamship *America*, which recently left Hongkong for Haiphong, took out in tow a small steamer called the *Tonquin*, which is intended to run on the river at Haiphong.—The same paper understands that the annual rental of the houses destroyed by the great fire of 25th and 26th December, amounted to \$120,726; which would make the actual house property value, taken at say 12 per cent., about a million of dollars. The buildings, however, may be constructed in better condition than before for, say, less than half that sum.—The storekeeper Edward Fisher, has again been brought up on remand, charged with attempting to defraud the Lancashire Insurance Company of the sum of \$5,000 by setting fire to his house. After hearing some further evidence, the Magistrate, Mr. C. V. Creagh, finally remanded the defendant for a week, and admitted him to bail in two sureties of \$500 each.

The *Daily Press* says that His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Bishop Burdon and Mr. Francis, has visited the gaol and released sixty prisoners who had been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment for unlawful possession of property looted at the late fire.

CANTON.

I have a record of disasters from fire to give you. On the night of the 31st ult. a family house near the East Gate caught fire and the flames spread to the surrounding houses. The fire was not subdued until fifteen houses had been burnt down. On the same night a fire broke out in Ko Tong Hu, in the Pun Yu district, and about sixty shops were destroyed. The fire originated in a gambling house. About a week ago about seventy houses were burnt down at Fat-shan, and in another fire at Chun Chune, about two miles from Canton, more than a hundred houses were consumed.

The 1st January was the Lieutenant-Governor's birthday. Visits of congratulation were paid by his subordinate officers, who brought with them the customary presents.

The thieves are about as usual and as audacious as ever. The Lieutenant-Governor was recently relieved of \$600, and a

few days ago the yamen of the Provincial Treasurer was visited and \$5,000 carried off. In connection with the latter affair the Pun Yu Magistrate has been ordered to have the robbers arrested and the booty recovered. Easier said than done.—*Daily Press* Cor.

5th Jan.

YOKOHAMA.

The *Gazette* says the reported promotion of General Saigo to the ministry of war will be most favourably regarded by officers and men of the Imperial army, to whom he will be most acceptable on account of his high personal qualities and soldierly feelings.—It is no secret that for some reasons the late Minister had become unpopular with the forces, though probably the unfortunate withholding of reward which is supposed to have conduced to the Takebashi and second mutiny, should not be entirely laid to his charge. General Saigo has such great personal authority with the troops, that under his care and government there is no doubt the forces will revert to their former loyalty. The change is, in every way, a good one, as a discontented army, with bonds of discipline loosened, was a new and terrible danger to the State.—The arrival at Yokohama of the *Fega*, Capt. Pallander, the vessel engaged in the Swedish expedition to the Arctic Ocean, is expected. Letters addressed to some of the officers have been received by the Swedish Consul, Mr. Van Oordt, and that gentleman has been instructed by his Government to offer welcome to Professor Nordenskjöld, the chief of the expedition, on his reaching port.—Mr. Patrick Hodnett, for many years a licensed pilot, has been presented by the Japanese Government with a letter of thanks and fifty yen, for saving the lives of eight persons from a foundering junk, in the month of July last.

The *Herald* translates, among other items, the following from native papers:—Snow fell in Niigata during the whole of the 15th December, and the ground was covered five feet deep.—H. E. Kuroda, the Chief of the Colonisation Department, has lately been on a voyage to Korsakoff, in Russian territory. He left in the *Gembu Maru*, but in addition to the extreme cold in the north, they encountered a very severe *Mukurea* wind, which blew so strongly that the ship could not steam against it, the men were unable to carry out their duties, and they were all in extreme danger. Thanks, however, to the exertions of the captain, who encouraged his men throughout the storm, the vessel at last reached her destination in safety. It is said that Mr. Kuroda's visit was for the purpose of personally ascertaining the manner in which the houses in that port are constructed for the protection of the inhabitants against the extreme cold, and in order to introduce this same plan of construction into Hokkaido, some Russian carpenters have been engaged. It is hoped that by these means great advantages will be bestowed upon the inhabitants under the Kaitakushi jurisdiction.

QUEENSLAND.

A Blue-book which has been issued, relating to our "Colonial Possessions," collects some interesting particulars ascertained at the census of Queensland, taken on May-day, 1876. The Surveyor-General, correcting a former estimate, computes the area of Queensland at 669,520 square miles. In 1859, at the beginning of its existence as a separate colony, it had a population of only 23,570 souls, but the census of 1876 showed 173,283 persons—namely, 105,009 males and 68,274 females. It has been customary at a Queensland census to add 2½ per cent. for people overlooked in counting up so scattered a population, and this would bring the number

up to 177,615, which the Registrar-General considers a very near approximation to the actual population. The increase in number since the last preceding census in 1871 was no less than 44 per cent. The enumeration of 1876 included 10,412 Chinese and Japanese (only 13 of them being females), and 5,108 Polynesians, of whom 170 were females. Brisbane contained a population of 20,953 persons; and there were 2,185 in Cooktown, which is the metropolis of the gold-producing districts of the north, and has sprung into existence and become a populous place since the census of 1871. The aborigines of the country are not included in the above account, and no approximate estimate of their numbers has been made; their habits and condition present great, if not insuperable, difficulties. The number of inhabited dwellings of all kinds in Queensland in 1876 is returned as 36,552, including what are called "houses by courtesy," in which the gold-digging population generally reside. In the larger towns there are stone houses, and some very handsome bank buildings and other places of business; and in the country districts many of the wealthy class engaged in pastoral pursuits have large and handsome residences, and an increasing number of the farmers are getting out of the slab-but style of cottage and constructing their dwellings of sawn timber. Some of the most costly and commodious residences in the colony are constructed of sawn timber. Many residents in the Australian "bush" maintain that the "open-house" style, with an inch or two between the rough slabs forming the wall, and with window places innocent of glass, are the most healthy of all habitations in the climate of Queensland. The census of religion shows 61,962 persons described as belonging to the Church of England, 43,147 Roman Catholics, 18,947 Presbyterians, 12,174 Lutherans, 11,065 Methodists, and 10,047 Mahomedans and Pagans; these are the only denominations with as many as 5,000 members.

Although the recent report of cannibalism among natives of New Zealand has been proved to have been unfounded, the Australian continent still possesses savages who practise cannibalism. The "blacks" of Queensland have long been regarded as among the most determined opponents of the white man, and the recent wreck of a vessel named the *Reiser* near Townsville gave them an opportunity of displaying their hostility. After murdering the crew of the vessel, they cooked and ate some of them, and the bodies of two of the men were afterwards found in an oven on the mainland opposite the King's Reef, on which the *Reiser* struck. The features of the men were unrecognizable, the skulls being smashed in and parts of the flesh being removed; but traces of paper, clothing, &c., in the neighbourhood of the camp left no doubt as to their identity. The natives of the interior of Queensland are of a type far inferior to the Maoris of New Zealand, and the fact that they have been brought little or not at all under the influences of civilization prevents any comparison between them and the Maoris, whose renunciation of their heathen rites and customs dates back many years. The murders and subsequent acts of cannibalism which were recently attributed to New Zealand natives, really occurred in New Britain, or the New Hebrides—accounts are still conflicting and uncertain, and the exact locality of the crime is not easily fixed in face of inaccurate telegraphic reports which have travelled from Melbourne to Sydney, and to Auckland, and by two different routes—*via* San Francisco and *via* Port Darwin—to Europe. It is certain, however, that New Zealand was not the scene of the outrage. It is supposed that the sufferers were native teachers from Fiji, and not Wesleyan missionaries from Europe.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

November 19th.—The greater portion of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a memorial from Ting Pao-ch'eng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, describing with great minuteness the discovery of a plot to create an insurrection by one Wu Ts'ai-p'iao, having under him some twenty or more agents who were going about to different places inciting the people to join them in a rebellion. The machinations of these people having been brought to the notice of the Governor by Chow Wan-shun, Commander-in-chief, orders were at once given for the arrest of Wu Ts'ai-p'iao and his agents, and the authorities on the Yunnan frontier were specially cautioned to be on the watch, as it was in that region that the agents had been at work. An intimation reached the Commander-in-chief soon after this that Wu Ts'ai-p'iao was going to attack a place called Si-t'an, and then make a raid on Ma-An-Ch'eng some 20 li distant. He set out at once therefore for Si-t'an, but the rebels got wind of his approach and made off, so that the expedition resulted only in the capture of two of their boats with a certain amount of arms and gunpowder. A vigilant watch was still kept on all sides, with the result that several arrests were made, but the leader of the insurrection still remained at large and could not be found. At length, about the middle of August, news reached the Commander-in-chief that he had made his way with a number of followers to a place called Ts'ing Ki, where troops were immediately despatched and the house of the rebel chief was surrounded at dead of night. The Commander-in-chief broke open the door and rushed in, followed by some ten or more men. Wu Ts'ai-p'iao, startled by the noise of their entry, jumped up and seized a sword, but he was cut down by the Commander-in-chief and immediately seized and secured. His followers all escaped, and the night being dark it was thought inadvisable to follow them for any distance. In the boxes of the chief, seditious proclamations and other documents of a most treasonable nature were discovered. Subsequent operations against the remainder of the band led to the destruction or capture of nearly all of them, and orders have now been given for the summary execution of Wu Ts'ai-p'iao and the other prisoners of importance. The memorial concludes with a recommendation of the officers whose services on this occasion are deserving of notice.

Nov. 20th.—(1) A decree appointing K'i Siu 啟秀, to the post of sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with Brevet rank as vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

(2) Memorial from Ting Pao-ch'eng, Governor-General of Szech'wan. On the 8th September he had the honor to receive the following reply to a postscript memorial he had presented on the subject of the successful nature of the arrangements for the sale of salt on the borders of Kwei-chow:—"It is noted. In the postscript memorial certain words are repeated twice over, and there are places in which the pages are not consecutive. Let the Governor-General in question give an intelligible explanation as to the cause of the mistake." As memorialist, kneeling upon his knees, perused this reply, he was seized with an indescribable fear and trembling, and in obedience to the command laid upon him inspected the memorial, in which he found that the place where the document was not consecutive was owing to the existence of a page that had been repeated. When the memorial was drawn up, he had found when reading it carefully over that there was a mistake in a character in one of the pages of the middle fold or form of the memorial, which necessitated

that part being re-written, and as the mistake occurred just at the end of one of the folds a fresh fold had to be begun. Thus, a new form was used for the last part of the memorial, and it was intended when this had been copied fair to cut off the page on the first half of the memorial on which the mistake occurred and attach the new piece. Unfortunately, the clerk omitted to do this and pasted the new piece on to the old. A little of the paste too that was used got on to the two leaves and fastened them together, so that when memorialist was comparing the copy with the original he did not, in his hurry, detach them and make the necessary alteration, which was a piece of most unpardonable carelessness. Having now received an Imperial decree pointing out this mistake and calling for an explanation, memorialist whose eyes are blurred, feels in his fear as if there were no place which will hold him (to which he can fly for refuge). In matters of such grave importance as representations to His Majesty, what redoubled caution and care ought there not to be? And an error such as this is worse than ordinary carelessness. All then that memorialist can do is reverently to beseech His Majesty of His goodness to commit His servant to the Board for the infliction of a rigorous penalty, that he may learn to avoid carelessness in the future. (For decree see *Gazette* of 4th November.)

Public Meetings.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At the Meeting of the Council held in the Council Room, 17, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Monday, the 6th January, 1879, at 9.30 o'clock a.m.

Present:—Messrs. J. Hart (chairman), R. H. Arindale, P. G. Hübbe, E. H. Lavers, E. G. Low, R. Mackenzie, and the Secretary.

The *Minutes* of the previous meeting are read, confirmed, signed, and passed for publication.

The *Cash Statement* for the week ending 4th instant is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Nuisances.—*Exercising ponies on Bubbling Well Road*.—Complaints having been made that the strings of ponies which are led for exercise during the afternoon along the Bubbling Well road, between the Horse Bazaar and Carter road, are a nuisance and dangerous to those walking or driving past, it is decided to give instructions to the police to see that the ponies are not exercised where they inconvenience the public.

KIUKIANG LANDRENTERS' MEETING.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Landrenters, held at H.M.'s Consulate, at Kiukiang, on the 9th January, 1879.

Present:—Messrs. Holwill, Grant, Campbell, Hart, Eagan and Geo. Phillips, H.M.'s Consul, in the chair.

The circular calling the meeting was read.

The Report and Accounts of the Municipal Council for the year ending 31st December, 1878, were handed in and read.

REPORT.

The members of the Municipal Council on their retirement from office beg to lay before the Landrenters the following report of their proceedings during the past year.

In consequence of the resignation of the Secretary, Mr. Kopsch, and the Treasurer, Mr. Tucker, Messrs. Campbell and Grant were elected on the 30th May, 1878, to fill the vacancies.

It is with much pleasure the Council have to congratulate the Landrenters on the successful termination of the new bunding

scheme, which was mentioned in the last report as likely to come into operation.—The sanction of H.M.'s Minister and the Chinese authorities has been obtained, and the different Foreign Ministers at Peking having given it their approval, and referred the matter to their respective Governments for sanction, the new system of wharfrage dues came into force on the 15th April, 1878, thereby relieving the Landrenters of a great burden, and enabling the Chinese to contribute their share towards the maintenance of a Bund, so largely availed of by them.

Roads.—With the exception of the Lew-shan Bridge and the Bund Road (which latter is no longer under the control of the Council), little or no damage was caused by the flood. The undermining of the Bridge Road was slight and has been repaired at a small outlay, and, with all the other roads, is now in moderately good order.

Police.—Gwing to the inefficiency of the Head Constable, Simon Mausanares, it was decided on the 15th June to discharge him, and he was replaced by Mr. Brandon, who found it necessary to change all but the Head Native Constable, and the force is now in a very effective state.

Expenditure.—From the Treasurer's account it will be seen that the expenditure is much on a par with the receipts, and that the Council have taken upon themselves the responsibility of settling all outstanding accounts for bund facing, drains, &c., with the contractors, which amount to Tls. 602.65, and leaves a debit balance to the Council of Tls. 11.27. The other principal items in the disbursements have been Tls. 563, for police expenses, which compares favourably with last year; and Tls. 112 for interest at 8% on debentures for 1876. As the Council are now relieved from keeping the bund in repair, it is hoped their liabilities will be considerably reduced during the current year.

(Signed) V. C. HART, Chairman.

" ALEX. CAMPBELL, Treasurer.

" P. MCGREGOR GRANT, Hon. Secy.

THE LANDRENTERS OF KIUKIANG IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

1878.	Dr.	Tls.
Dec. 31	To interest on Debentures for 1876....	112.00
"	" stow facing Bund, balance of contracts	602.65
"	" repairs to roads	51.78
"	" Policemen's houses	44.70
"	" oil	28.88
"	" sundries	18.30
"	" Police wages	563.00
		1,421.31
1878.	Cr.	T's.
Jan. 1	By balance in hand	103.04
Dec. 31	" Municipal call of Tls. 25 on 29 Lots	725.00
"	" " dues on Teen-steamers	82.00
"	" " rent of frontage from China Navigation Co.	500.00
"	" " balance due the Hon. Treasurer ..	11.27
		1,421.31

E. & O. E.

Kiukiang, 1st January, 1879.

(Signed) V. C. HART, Chairman.

ALEX. CAMPBELL, Hon. Treasurer.

P. MCGREGOR GRANT, Hon. Secretary.

Audited by J. H. HUNT.

STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES OF THE KIUKIANG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

1878.		Tls.
Dec. 31	Debenture Holders Tls. 50 on 25 Lots ..	1,400.00
"	Interest on above, Tls. 1,400=@ 8% for 1877 and 1878	224.00
"	Messrs. Robert Anderson and Co. for advance	546.95
"	Cash balance due Hon. Treasurer	11.27
		2,182.22

Proposed by Mr. HOLWILL and seconded by Mr. EAGAN—

That the Accounts and the Report as laid before the meeting be passed.

Carried.

The Council then resigned, and a ballot was taken for a new one, which resulted in Messrs. HOLWILL, GRANT and CAMPBELL being elected as members of the Council for the year 1879.

It was proposed by Mr. GRANT and seconded by Mr. CAMPBELL—

That the new Council be authorised to continue to levy a call of Twenty-five Taels upon each Concession lot during the year 1879.

Carried.

With a vote of thanks to Mr. Hunt for auditing the accounts, and to the retiring Council and the Chairman, the meeting was closed.

(Signed) GEO. PHILLIPS,

H.M.'s Consul, Chairman.

Amusements.

RICHIEU.

Bulwer's great drama "Richelieu" was produced, for the first time, we believe, in Shanghai, at the Lyceum on the 8th instant under exceptionally good circumstances. Setting aside the fact for the moment that high-class drama is seldom if ever included in the run of the pieces presented by the indefatigable members of our A.D.C., it must be accorded that they did the right thing in recognising the presence in Shanghai of one of the best—if not the best—interpreters of the histrionic art now living, and in giving him the support necessary for the success of so great an undertaking as the production of the drama of "Richelieu." That they not only did so, but gave up their time night after night to study and rehearsal, until each became so perfect in his part that, on the night of presentation, scarcely a line of the text was missed, and the voice of the "complaining prompter" was rarely, if ever, heard, redounds to their utmost credit; and we are sure we shall for the reasons named be forgiven for thus prominently putting forward our local amateur Thespians before noticing the greater features of the performance.

To speak of Mr. Fairclough as an actor simply, would be to class him with those who, while calling themselves "actors," and regard themselves as capable of "holding the mirror up to nature," are yet but of the school of dullards who fail to catch the vital spark and are unable to reflect that "counterfeit presentment" which marks the true student of human nature. The impersonator, on Wednesday night, of *Richelieu*—that acknowledged admixture of lion and fox—fox only when the best interests of his beloved France were threatened or assailed—lion, in the feeling and practice of generosity in private life, though not slow to act or strike when danger threatened—was equal to his task. Remembering the days of Macready, of Kean, and the late lamented Phelps, and recalling to mind the triumphs those mighty ones achieved in this and similar characters, it is not too much to say that, in *Richelieu* at least, the mantle of either one could not have fallen upon more worthy shoulders than those of Mr. Fairclough. That this feeling was shared in by the large audience which filled the Lyceum on Wednesday night was evidenced by the calls before the curtain which followed nearly every act,—and here we must pause for the sake of a word or two respecting Shanghai audiences. It has been too commonly said that light comedy and burlesque are the only things that will successfully "take" in the Model Settlement! Yet here, on Wednesday night, the first, for a long time, of the production of a strictly classical and historical drama, we find nearly every seat filled by an audience, including nearly a hundred ladies, so rapt at times in listening to the actor's utterance of the great author's living lines, that, to use a common phrase, "a pin might have been heard to fall,"—and then, upon each peroration, bursting into a storm of applause. The accusation of frivolity in theatrical matters will no longer apply to the community of Shanghai, and the lesson will doubtless be taken to heart by the A.D.C., the members of which, at least those who played in "*Richelieu*," must have felt for the time being the power of which they

are capable and the "divine glow" which moves it.

The drama itself is so familiar to all readers of Bulwer's writings, that it would be waste of time to dwell upon it; but a few lines from the copy of A.D., 1839, now before us, will not be out of place. "The administration of Cardinal Richelieu," says the author in his preface, "whom (despite all his darker qualities) Voltaire and History justly consider the true architect of the French Monarchy, and the great parent of French civilization, is characterised by features alike tragic and comic. A weak King, an ambitious favourite; a despicable conspiracy against the Minister, nearly always associated with a dangerous treason against the State—these with a little variety of names and dates constitute the eventful cycle through which, with a dazzling ease, and an arrogant confidence, the luminary fulfilled its destinies. Blent together in startling contrast, we see the grandest achievements and the pettiest agents;—the spy, the mistress, the capuchin; the destruction of feudalism, the humiliation of Austria, the dismemberment of Spain. Richelieu himself is still what he was in his own day—a man of two characters. If, on the one hand, he is justly represented as inflexible and vindictive, crafty and unscrupulous; so, on the other, it cannot be denied that he was placed in times in which the long impunity of every license required stern examples—that he was beset by perils and intrigues, which gave an excuse to the subtlest inventions of self-defence." To faithfully portray on the boards a character of this duplex nature requires, as we have said above, not only a thorough acquaintance with the histrionic art, but an intimate knowledge of the workings of the human mind; and that Mr. Fairclough possesses both was clearly evidenced in his acting on Wednesday night. The physically feeble old man, when either roused into sudden outbursts of passion by the discovery of plots against his beloved France—worked up again, but in a minor degree, by the discovery of plots against himself or his ward *Julie de Mortemar*—incensed against the King and his favourites, or befriending the reckless but generous *De Mauprat*,—the character was splendidly maintained throughout. Mr. Fairclough's declamation rising as occasion needed to the utmost of pathos or defiant denunciation. There was no rant, no extravagant movement—neither word nor action were wasted or used out of place, and (although comparisons are said to be odious) Hamlet's advice to the players, mixed with a little modern inspiration, was well followed—and the audience, following the inspiration, were not slow, to quote the words of the text, to "applaud in the proper places."

Space will not permit us to pursue the congenial theme much further; and it is time we turned towards the minor characters. First among these, is of course, that of *Julie de Mortemar*, a rôle played by Miss Elcia May in a style indicative of present excellence as an actress and of higher finish to come. The audience accorded her a truly warm reception, and there is no doubt she made a decidedly successful debut in the rôle in Shanghai—but people are waiting to see her once more in her true vocation—opera; and when once she reappears on the lyric stage, there is no doubt as to the excellence of her impersonations or the reception she will have. The applause accorded to her on Wednesday evening was evidence of that.

Of the secondary male characters, Baradas, favourite of the King, was well acted by Mr. Crowquill; and the Chevalier de Mauprat found a clever impersonator in Mr. Smallwood, who, indeed, is good at anything on the amateur boards. Joseph, a Capuchin, Richelieu's confidant, was cleverly performed by Mr. Knight, though

his plump contour hardly consorted with that of a supposed ascetic. The minor parts of Louis XIII (*Mr. Doolittle*), Gaston, Duke of Orleans (*Mr. Wydale*), Sieur de Beringhen (*Mr. Straw*), Huguet, officer of Richelieu's Guard—a spy (*Mr. R. Ginger*), François, a page (*Mr. Valiani*), Claremont (*Mr. F. Blessington*), and the Secretary (*Mr. F. Murray*), were all well filled; and although at times there was an inability on the part of the audience to catch the words spoken, we are inclined to think a little more stage practice will give sufficient confidence to make articulation more audible.

Taken as a whole, the drama was highly successful, and at the close the curtain fell to an unanimous recall.

There remains but one other feature to notice. The orchestra was filled by the New Town Band, under the direction of M. Rénusat, whose playing was at times sufficiently startling—especially the drums and cymbals—to cause a perceptible “jump” throughout the theatre; though on the whole they played very well, and the community is to be congratulated on the importation of so harmonious a body of Manila men into their midst.

NO 2 CO. S.V.C. RIFLE COMPETITION.

The above Company's rifle competition for the Monthly Cup took place on Saturday last, and led to some tolerably good shooting, of which the following are the scores:—

	200 yds.	500 yds.	Total.
Priv. Johnston	5333443—24	4545355—31	55
Sergt. Tucker	4454442—27	5324345—26	53
Priv. Thirby	4433333—24	5502514—25	49
„ Stanford	3352335—24	4253222—20	44
„ Bowman	2334333—21	3434302—20	41
„ Fardon	2334335—23	0355032—18	41
„ Mortie	3333333—24	4054122—15	39
„ Rowland	2233322—17	3332205—18	35
„ Grout	2022223—13	333033—15	28

SATURDAY'S PAPER HUNT.

This hunt was decidedly one of the most sporting events of the present season, no fewer than from fifty-four to fifty-eight riders putting in an appearance at the rendezvous for the start, a point on the Jessfield road a few score yards beyond the Bubbling Well. The weather was simply delightful, and was doubtless the cause of one of the largest turn-outs of spectators ever seen in Shanghai, even on paper hunt or race days. Long stretches of the road were covered with spectators, mounted, on foot, and in carriages of all descriptions—from the aristocratic pair to the humble trap—in fact, to parody Gilbert's well-known song—

Here a carriage—there a carriage—
A carriage here, a carriage there—
Everywhere a carriage—

seemed the order of the day; all present being apparently bent on thoroughly enjoying the beauty of the weather and the exhilarating scene around them.

The start was made shortly after three o'clock, the paper at first leading in the direction of Jessfield, the pace at once becoming very fast. Continuing for some distance along the Jessfield line of country, the village was passed, and the first jump was negotiated at a somewhat wide creek beyond, and hereabouts the villagers with characteristic thoughtlessness had laid paper which threw some of the huntsmen on the wrong scent, and for a short time there was a good deal of scrambling to recover the right track. Having got together again, the pace once more became very fast, the course leading up the Soochow Creek to the first barrier or mandarin's station, from which point it rounded away towards the handicap line and so through Fah-wah village to the Fah-wah line, down which it led across the well-known series of dry jumps, and finished in a field close to the Siccawei road. The pace, being more than

usually fast, led to quite a chapter of mishaps, ponies being pounded in several directions and their riders thrown. One well-known resident received a severe cut on the forehead, and a second was badly shaken; while another maintaining his hold of the bridle, the head-stall slipped off, and the pony galloped to the winning flags riderless and bridleless, the whilom rider incontinently following on foot. There were also sundry mishaps of a less trying nature, and altogether more than the usual number of “moving accidents by flood and field.”

Contrary to the usual practice, of a jump at the finish, the flags were on this occasion pitched from 250 to 300 yards beyond the final leap, giving opportunity for a splendid run home on the flat; and over this short distance a splitting race ensued between Mr. Taumeyer on *Truro*, Mr. Howie on *Bonny Fawn*, Mr. Low on *Grande*, Mr. Ilbert on *White Velvet*, and Mr. Hincley on *Zingari*, ending nearly in the order named, Mr. Taumeyer winning by about a length. The run, which was nearly, if not quite, eight miles in extent, occupied within a few seconds of forty minutes, and is, we believe, the fastest on record.

THE FOCHOW RACE MEETING.

(Fochow Herald.)

FIRST DAY.

Friday, 3rd January, 1879.

1.—THE HAE-KWAN CUP.—(Presented).—Value, \$100. For all China Ponies.—Weights as per scale.—1 mile.

Mr. St. George's <i>Strathavon</i>	1
„ <i>Falk's Brutus</i>	2
„ <i>Yorke's Sombro</i>	3

The field went off to a tolerably level start, *Sombro* leading to near the Fochow Road Corner, when *Strathavon* and *Brutus* came up and made a splendid finish for first and second places, the former winning by a good head. *Black Cloud* also ran.

Time 62.1/5 secs.

2.—THE MAIDEN STAKES.—Of \$15 each with \$100 added.—For all China Ponies, *bona fide* Griffins at date of entry.—Weights as per scale.—3 mile.

Mr. Falk's <i>Kaiser</i>	1
„ C. Aitch's <i>Nayland</i>	2
„ Willwynn's <i>The Quaker</i>	3

This was, of course, the race of the day. *Kaiser*, a pony of good appearance, but, according to local “vets,” possessed of only “one lung,” and *Spinaway*, an exceptionally handsome Mongolian, the pet of his owner, and the admired of all admirers; but, as the result demonstrated, unexpectedly stale and sick—being first favorites at the post. The flag fell to a good start, and *Kaiser* led off, winning as he liked, in rattling time; *Nayland* and *The Quaker* making a good race for second and third places respectively. *Aylestone*, *Earl Warwick*, *Spinaway*, and *Gone* also started.

Time 1min. 39.4/5 secs.

THE CHAASZE CUP.—(Presented).—Value, \$200.—For all China Ponies.—Weights as per scale.—2 miles.

Mr. Fohkien's <i>Condor</i>	1
„ St. George's <i>Earl Harold</i>	2
„ Clearall's <i>Midlander</i>	3

Four ponies started for this race, *Creedmoor* taking the lead; *Earl Harold*, *Condor*, and *Midlander*, well in hand. It was evident that the “Earl” and Mr. Fohkien's representative had the game in their grasp all through—the first named having the call; but, by sheer hard riding, *Condor* made a splendid finish, winning a most exciting and keenly contested race by a bare neck, to the intense delight of the premier local jockey's numerous friends. *Creedmoor* also ran.

Time 4min. 39.1/5 secs.

4.—THE HACK STAKES.—Of \$10 each with \$50 added.—For all China Ponies not otherwise entered at the Meeting, except for Steeplechase.—Weight, 12 stone.—3 mile.

Mr. Clearall's <i>Spendthrift</i>	1
Major Bagstock's <i>Blarney</i>	2
Mr. Belmore's <i>Wimbledon</i>	3

There was a fair start for this race, *Spendthrift* leading from the post and winning in a canter. *Spindrift* also started.

Time 64.3/10. secs.

5.—THE CRITERION STAKES.—Of \$25 each, with \$100 added.—For all China Ponies.—Weights as per scale.—1 mile.

Mr. St. George's <i>Strathavon</i>	1
„ St. Andrew's <i>Red Robin</i>	2

Strathavon and *Red Robin* were the sole competitors in this event,—the former coming up in the last round and passing the judge's box an easy winner.

Time 2min. 51.3/5 secs.

6.—THE BANKER'S CUP.—(Presented).—Value, \$120.—For all China Ponies, *bona fide* griffins at date of entry.—Weights as per scale.—Winner of the Maiden Stakes 7lbs. extra.—1 mile.

Mr. Falk's <i>Kaiser</i>	1
„ St. George's <i>Earl Warwick</i>	2
„ Willwynn's <i>The Quaker</i>	3

Kaiser started a hot favorite, and won with comparative ease. Five ran.

Time 2 min. 17 1/2 secs.

7.—THE FLYAWAY STAKES.—Of \$10 each, with \$100 added.—For all China Ponies.—Weights as per scale.—3 mile.

Mr. St. George's <i>Farewell</i>	1
„ <i>Falk's Brutus</i>	2
„ <i>Yorke's Etoile du Nord</i>	3

After a succession of false starts, the field got off, *Farewell* taking the lead from *Etoile du Nord*, and, after an exciting contest with *Brutus*, landing the prize by a nose. Three others ran.

Time 1 min. 37.3/5 secs.

SECOND DAY.

Saturday, 4th January, 1879.

1.—THE KWAI-LAM-SEUNG-SZ CUP.—(Presented).—Value \$100.—For all China Ponies.—Weights as per scale.—Winner of the Hae-Kwan Cup 10lbs. extra. 3 mile.

Mr. Falk's <i>Brutus</i>	1
„ St. George's <i>Farewell</i>	2
„ <i>Yorke's Sombro</i>	3

This was an excellent race between the favorites *Brutus* and *Farewell*, who both came up near the straight and ran home in gallant style, Mr. Falk's colors passing the post first by a short head. Six ran.

Time, 63.1/5 secs.

2.—THE HONGKONG CUP.—(Presented). Value \$250.—For all China Ponies.—Weights as per scale.—Winner of the Chaasze Cup 5lbs. extra.—1 1/2 mile.

Mr. St. George's <i>Strathavon</i>	1
„ Clearall's <i>Midlander</i>	2
„ Falk's <i>Earl Cedric</i>	3

Strathavon, who was considered a “certainty” for this race, allowed the other ponies to make the running, collared the field in the last round, took the lead, and came in a conqueror by several lengths. Four ran.

Time, 3 min. 27.4/5 secs.

3.—SUBSCRIPTION CHALLENGE CUP.—Value 200 Guineas, added to a Sweepstake of \$15. To be won two years consecutively by a Pony or Ponies the *bona fide* property of the same owner or owners.—For all China Ponies.—Weights as per scale.—1 mile.

Mr. St. George's <i>Earl Harold</i>	1
„ St. Andrew's <i>Red Robin</i>	2
„ <i>Yorke's Scud</i>	3

The starter got off a small field very successfully, *Scud* taking first place and keeping it until the second round, when *Earl Harold* shot ahead and won an easy victory.

Time, 2 min. 13 secs.

4.—THE TONG-KIAU CHEONG STAKES.—Of \$10 each, with \$100 added. For all China Ponies. Weights as per scale. Winner of the Flyaway Stakes 10lbs. extra.—3 mile.

Mr. St. George's <i>Strathavon</i>	1
„ Falk's <i>Brutus</i>	2
„ St. George's <i>Farewell</i>	3

Creedmoor led off in his accustomed style, to an excellent start, but on nearing the straight *Brutus*, *Strathavon*, and *Farewell* left him in the lurch, *Strathavon* winning by two-thirds of a length, though the rider of *Brutus* made a gallant but ineffectual struggle for first honours. Six ran.

Time 1min. 35.1/5 sec.

5.—THE COMPRADES' CUP.—(Presented.)—Value \$160.—For *bond fide* Griffins at date of entry.—Weights as per scale.—1½ mile.

Mr. Willwynn's *The Quaker* 1
 „ St. George's *Earl Warwick* 2
 „ C. Aitch's *Aylestone* 3

Kaiser started first favorite for this event, but was somehow wanting and decidedly not up to his previous day's form. *The Quaker*, *au contraire*, boldly asserted himself in a hotly contested race with *Earl Warwick*, and proved the better animal by about half a length. Five ran.

Time 3min. 37½ sec.

THE LOTTERY CUP.—5 per cent. on Club Lotteries. For all China Ponies.—Weight as per scale.—Winner of Chaaze or Hongkong Cups, 7lbs. extra; if of both, 10lbs.—2 miles.

Mr. St. George's *Earl Harold* 1
 „ Clearall's *Midlander* 2
 „ Fohkien's *Condor* 3

The flag fell to a good start—on a field of three—*Condor* taking the rails and running gamely for about two-thirds of the distance, when *Earl Harold* came to the front and won with great ease, *Condor* and *Midlander* running a dead heat for second place.

Time 1min. 46 sec.

THIRD DAY,

Monday, 6th January, 1879.

1.—THE LEDGER CUP.—(Presented)—Value, \$100.—For all China Ponies.—Weights as per scale.—Winners of one race during the Meeting, 10lbs. extra; if of two or more, 14lbs. extra.—Once round and a distance.

Mr. Falk's *Brutus* 1
 „ Clearall's *Midlander* 2
 „ St. George's *Earl Warwick* 3

Owing to the fractiousness of *Wee-Pet*, the starter experienced some difficulty in sending the ponies away, but they got off at last to a fair start, *Brutus* taking the first place, and keeping it, though close pressed by *Midlander* at the finish, a bare head alone separating them. Seven ran.

Time, 1 min. 26 sec.

2.—THE FEI-MA CUP.—(Presented)—Value, \$200.—For all China Ponies.—Weights as per scale.—Winner of a race of 1½ miles or over, 7lbs. extra, and an additional 5lbs. for every other race won at these distances; penalties accumulative.—Entrance, \$10—1½ miles.

Mr. St. George's *Earl Harold* 1
 „ St. Andrew's *Red Robin* 2
 Major Bagstock's *Wild Lark* 3

Wild Lark, close pressed by *Red Robin*, made the running for the first mile, but to little purpose, as the “Earl,” who was not to be denied, won a tolerably well-contested race by about half a length. Four ran.

Time, 4 min. 8½ sec.

3.—THE LADIES' PURSE.—(Presented)—For all China Ponies.—To be handicapped by the Stewards.—Entrance, \$5.—Once round.

Mr. Yorke's *Sombrero* 1
 „ Belmore's *Creedmoor* 2
 Major Bagstock's *Spinaway* 3

There was a large field for this, the most coveted prize of the meeting, and, consequently, some trouble in getting them together at the post, but the flag dropped to a fairly good start, *Sombrero* taking the lead and keeping it throughout, *Creedmoor* losing the purse by only half a length. Seven ran.

Time, 1 min. 16.3/10 sec.

Mr. Lewis, the fortunate rider of *Sombrero*, was then conducted to the Grand Stand, and introduced to Mrs. Dermer, who, in a few appropriate words, expressed the pleasure she experienced in presenting Mr. Lewis with the souvenir in question. Mr. Lewis replied as follows:—“Mrs. Dermer, and ladies,—I scarcely know how to express my thanks to you and the ladies of Foochow generally for the kind manner in which you have presented me with this purse. And though myself and colleagues devote a certain amount of thought and attention to racing affairs we are yet fully alive to the fact that the presence of the fair sex forms the chief attraction of these pleasant gatherings. In conclusion, perhaps I may be allowed to quote the words of a well-known artist, and freely say—‘Ladies, this is the happiest moment of my life.’”

4.—THE CONSOLATION STAKES.—Of \$5 each with \$100 added.—For all beaten ponies that have run at this Meeting.—Weights as per scale.—1 mile.

Mr. Belmore's *Creedmoor* 1
 „ Major Bagstock's *Spinaway* 2
 „ Clearall's *Midlander* 3

Creedmoor led off to a rather bad start, and gradually increasing his lead, won with tolerable ease by several lengths. Time 2min. 14.3/5 sec. Eight ran.

5.—THE CHAMPION STAKES.—Of \$15 each, with \$100 added. Compulsory on all winners to enter (winner of Hack Stakes excepted). Weights as per scale. 1½ mile.

Mr. St. George's *Earl Harold* 1
 „ St. Andrew's *Red Robin* 2
 „ St. George's *Strathavon* 3

Brutus went off at the word, retaining the lead for the first half-mile, when he was collared by *Strathavon* and *Red Robin*, who raced together until nearing home, when *Earl Harold* was pushed ahead, at the top of the straight, winning by an easy finish of several lengths. Time 2min. 46.4/5 sec. Six ran.

6.—THE GRAND NATIONAL STAKES.—Of \$10 each, with \$100 added.—A Steeplechase twice round and a distance over a course selected by the Stewards—Catch weights over 11 stone.

Mr. Willwynn's *Wee-Pet* 1
 „ St. Andrew's *Black Cloud* 2

Black Cloud was a strong favorite for this race, and looked all like a winner at starting, but his chance was lost through a succession of accidents, his rider losing a stirrup in the first round, and meeting with a bad fall over the hurdle in the second. *Blarney's* rider also came to grief over the last jump, which was regrettable, as otherwise it would have been a splendid race. Under these circumstances, *Wee-Pet*, who was well ridden throughout, came in a comparatively easy winner. Four ran.

FOURTH DAY.

1.—THE MAFOOS RACE.—Once round.—First prize, \$15; second prize, \$5.

Mr. Falk's *Brutus* 1
 „ Yorke's *Sombrero* 2
 „ Belmore's *Creedmoor* 3

“The Monkey” rode *Brutus* like a man, and therefore deserves a more complimentary racing sobriquet. Time 1min. 24.4/5 sec.

2.—KAISER CUP.—Presented. Value \$100. ¾-mile. For all beaten griffins. Weight for inches.

Major Bagstock's *Spinaway* 1
 Mr. St. Andrew's *Gone* 2
 „ C. Aitch's *Nayland* 3

Only three ponies went to the post, and *Spinaway* held his own all through. Time, 1 min. 39.1/5 sec.

3.—EARL HAROLD CUP.—Presented. Value, \$100. A Steeplechase three times round the Course. Winner of Grand National Stakes excluded. Catch weights over 11 stone.

Major Bagstock's *Blarney* 1
 Mr. Willwynn's *Chesterfield* 2

Both ponies took their jumps in clean style, *Blarney* winning easily.

Miscellaneous.

ANOTHER FIRE IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press.)

The Colony had scarcely recovered from the alarm into which the great fire of Christmas plunged it, the engines had but scarcely shut off steam and been returned to their stations on the 3rd inst., when the fire bell again clanged out the alarm. At a few minutes past six o'clock flames were seen bursting out from the shop occupied by Teen Sing, stationer and bookbinder, in Queen's Road, next to the ruins of Messrs. Koss & Co.'s premises. This and the adjoining house were left standing in a marvellous manner, the late great fire destroying all those around them. The combustible nature of the stock caused the fire to spread with wonderful celerity, and whilst the fire bell was ringing the flames

were leaping up to an enormous height, producing a startling effect upon the public, who poured from every quarter to the scene, where a dense crowd was speedily collected. The police turned out under the Captain-Superintendent and Inspector Grey with great expedition, and kept the crowd back in Queen's-road, Pottinger-street, and Wellington-street. The Government, Volunteer, and Fire Insurance Brigades, with their respective Superintendents, hastened to the spot, and the engines were got out without delay upon the Praya and hose brought up to the Queen's Road. No water was obtainable for some time from the hydrants. A number of jets were brought to bear upon the front of the fire, and one upon the back, whilst others were kept playing upon the opposite houses. Long before this, however, precautions were being taken at the Oriental Bank, which is just opposite, by wetting the venetians and pouring water over the roof. When the roof of the burning building fell in a gigantic volume of flame rose up, followed by an immense shower of sparks, which fortunately, owing to the absence of wind, went straight up into the air, and were not scattered. Shortly after this, the fire began to show signs of exhaustion, and about eight o'clock was fairly subdued. The remains of the adjoining house caught fire and were consumed.

His Excellency the Governor, Commodore Watson, with a party of blue-jackets, Colonel Shervinton, and Commissary-General Moore were quickly on the ground, together with most of the principal residents, but when it was seen that the fire was not likely to spread the crowd rapidly thinned. It is stated that the fire originated through the upsetting of a kerosine lamp in the upper portion of the premises; the oil running over the floor all aflame, and the man who met with the accident, together with the other persons in the house at the time, hastily left without making any attempt to arrest the course of the conflagration. During the fire a Chinaman was captured by the police in the act of attempting to sever the hose in the Central Market. He made a great struggle to get away from the lukongs, but Inspector Orley arriving on the spot soon got him down and sent him to the Central Station. The late occupant of the house was insured, and the loss will fall upon a local company.

The man who cut the hose at the fire on Friday night was not caught. A man was being arrested for resisting the police at the time the discovery that the hose had been cut was made, and this gave rise to the mistake. The resistance offered by the man apprehended was a struggle to get to his own house while the police were preventing people passing. The Magistrate before whom he was brought ruled that he had a perfect right to go there, and dismissed the case. The man appeared to have great confidence in his right, for he knocked down several lukongs in asserting it.

THE PROJECTED WOOLLEN MANUFACTORY AT LAN-CHOW-FU.

(China Overland Trade Report.)

Some time ago we mentioned that it was in contemplation to start a woollen manufactory in the North of China, to be worked on foreign principles, with foreign machinery. This scheme is, we now learn from a Shanghai contemporary, about to be carried out. Two German gentlemen—one a woollen manufacturer from Aix-la-Chapelle—have been engaged to conduct the enterprise to a successful conclusion, the requisite machinery has been shipped from Europe, and a site fixed upon for the new industry. The factory, which is to be erected with all possible expedition, is to be situated in the city of Lan-chow-fu, the capital of the province of Kansuh, and

to this remote spot the German managers are said now to be on their way. Kansuh is the north-east corner of China Proper, and as a great part of the journey thither has to be performed by land we are not surprised to hear that it will consume three months. The journey will be painfully tedious, no doubt, but the travellers will have the satisfaction of going over much ground almost entirely new to Europeans. Kansuh is not a populous province, nor the seat of any great industry. The reason alleged by the *Courier* for starting the factory at Lan-chow-fu is the presence there of the raw material, sheep being plentiful in the province. Probably if they found a good market there, the Mongols would drive in vast flocks of sheep and goats. It is thought by the originators of the project that it will pay better to establish the factory in the wool-producing district than to bring the raw material down to a port. This remains to be seen. The cost of transporting a bale of cloth from such an enormous distance will add considerably to its price, and render it difficult for it to compete with foreign goods. The time consumed in sending the goods to a market will also not be trifling. Still there is no reason why the factory should not supply provincial wants, and as there are some fifteen millions of inhabitants in Kansuh the mill may find sufficient employment for its energies. But that Lan-chow-fu can ever become an Oriental Bradford until some more facile means of communication with the coast is adopted, is absurd to suppose. The new mill is of course an experiment, and if it succeeds the Chinese may proceed to found other manufacturing industries. But we must confess to entertaining strong doubts about the success of the plan. In the first place it has been fostered and is being carried out by the Government, and past experience goes to show that Chinese Government monopolies are not remunerative. What profits may be made are reaped by petty officials, who are keen to scent out any chance of a "squeeze." The principle of a Government taking up such schemes is bad; they should be left to private enterprise. There is no lack of capital among the mercantile communities of China, though they studiously avoid making a display for fear of arousing mandarin cupidity. Had this factory been a private enterprise there would have been more prospect of its success. Expenses could have been minimised, and the affair conducted on a business-like basis. But if it is to be a privileged Government monopoly it will rapidly degenerate into an institution out of which pickings may be obtained, and cannot prosper. There is another reason why we cannot speak well of Government industrial enterprises in China. They are founded with one fixed idea—hostility to the foreigner and a desire to be independent of him. The woollen mill is no exception to the rule. The leading idea is to compete with foreign woollen goods, rather than to supply a want. Of course the Chinese people have a perfect right to establish what industries they please, and undersell foreign goods if they can, but it is not the business of their Government to do so, and is, in fact, a source of great injury to trade and commerce.

ITEMS FROM INDIAN PAPERS.

The *Calcutta Englishman* of 6th December, says there has been an improvement in both import and export business, though not in prices in the former. Freight rates are unchanged, though the market closed weak owing to a large number of arrivals. There were 47 ships, carrying 63,954 tons, in port disengaged.

The correspondent of the *Delhi Gazette*, who was present at the capture of Ali Musjid, in his account of the affair mentions one or two facts that we have not

seen noticed elsewhere. He states that the enemy had ten guns in Ali Musjid, seven in an adjoining entrenchment, and eight more distributed about, altogether twenty-five, of which we captured twenty-four, though official report says only twenty-two. The 51st Foot was the first regiment to occupy the fort, and in it were "found large quantities of ammunition of all sorts, for both guns and rifles. Bundles of Enfield cartridges were picked up, Government pattern, maked 1871, the year after our gift in 1870! Twenty-four guns were taken, all made in the Ameer's arsenal in Cabul. The enemy left his camps in the Pass standing. Tents, posthorns, chogas, attas, rifles, swords, crockery and all kinds of things were lying about. The Afghans had evidently abandoned their position in a desperate hurry." Further, he adds "that the commissariat arrangements were wonderfully good, considering the short time given in which to make them. Colonel Hunt deserves credit for the way he has got over difficulties. There was of course a little confusion at first, but by this time all is working smoothly and regularly. A month's supplies have been collected. Three survey officers are employed with the army, and are making an admirable map of the country."—It was decided by high authority that the employment of the prisoners taken at Ali Musjid on the Jhelam and Rawalpindi railway would be derogatory to the honor of a martial race, though the men themselves were delighted at the idea. The order sent to Peshawar was, according to a contemporary, to "treat them with respect," which the Commissioner considered incompatible with work as a navy.

The *Bombay Gazette* writes that the activity of English diplomacy since Lord Beaconsfield's Ministry came into office seems to have been quite unprecedented. From the revelations now poured forth it appears that, while the Turkish war was going on, the Foreign Secretary of England, inspired by Lord Lytton, kept his eye on Central Asia, and obtained from the Russian Government a formal disavowal of any claim to interfere in Afghanistan, which puts the subsequent despatch of the Russian Mission to Cabul in a very bad light. The marked significance of the speech made at Hongkong by the Chinese Envoy who has lately been on a mission to the English and French Courts, and the emphasis with which at the present critical time he declares that the friends and the enemies of England are also those of China, give point to the intimations frequently published of late that England has sought and obtained the alliance of China in the expected conflict with Russia in the East. In this connection the announced visit of Sir Thomas Wade to the Indian Viceroy is not without a special interest. Mr. Gladstone can see in this vigorous and comprehensive foreign policy nothing but omens of downfall of the British Empire; but, if such a catastrophe be imminent, he more than any other Englishman of mark has helped to bring it about, by the unceasing and unpatriotic malevolence of his attempts to discredit Lord Beaconsfield. In view of the dangers that beset the Empire, honourable statesmen should see that the time has come for all Englishmen to close their ranks and present a firm and united front to the enemy; but the demoralized politicians of Westminster seem to have no thought or care except for saying the most spiteful things they can imagine about one another.

The same paper says the remarkable interest the Governor of Bombay has taken during his recent stay here in the condition of the Bombay cotton mills,—he having personally inspected half a dozen of them,—must not be set down solely to Sir Richard Temple's never-failing desire to see some new thing. We are informed that the Government of India has decided that factory legislation is necessary for the protection of young

children employed in Indian cotton mills, and that the Government is further of opinion that any Act which may be passed on the subject should be applicable to the whole country. Accordingly, a draft Bill has been prepared, and a copy of it was received last week by the Government of Bombay for any suggestions Sir Richard Temple and his colleagues may have to make thereon. Hence the Governor's anxiety to make himself personally acquainted with the working of the principal mills here. There can be no doubt that employers of child labour in these factories should be put under some restraint. Their rules seem generally to be fair enough to the workpeople; but we have no security that these rules are ever carried out, and an interesting letter from Dr. Blaney, a witness whose evidence is free from any taint of bias, shows clearly enough that it is the interest of millowners to overwork their hands. The millowners are so strong in Bombay that a Bill introduced into our local Legislative Council would have no chance of being fairly discussed, and we are, therefore, glad the Government of India has taken the matter up.

The *Friend of India* states that Mr. James Gordon Bennett is reported to have left Paris for Cabul, travelling overland by way of Russia and Central Asia, and accompanied by M. Ivan de Woestyn, who acted as correspondent for the *Figaro* on the Russian side during part of the late war, and who is to represent the *New York Herald* in Afghanistan. A "special correspondent" among the Afghans will certainly be a novelty.

The *Indian Daily News* and other Indian papers complain loudly of the difficulties thrown in the way of their correspondents at the seat of war obtaining or transmitting information. The *News* says, "Very little news leaks down from the front, although it is now loudly proclaimed at Lahore that no restrictions or hindrances are put upon newspaper correspondents—never were put, it is more or less inferred. Newspaper people think differently. We do certainly. Special correspondents of the Archibald Forbes type are not born in India; the war correspondents of Indian newspapers are for the most part officers in the army, gentlemen that is to say, and therefore incapable of anything mean or pettifogging, and moreover professional men, the best fitted to judge as to what news may safely be given to the public, what news it behoves them to withhold, one would think. If the Commander-in-Chief, or the Government of India, or whatever the restricting power is, could only understand its own interests, it would encourage such men to write for the papers instead of repressing them. But they won't do that, and it is idle—a good many people think it is dishonest—to declare that army men are not repressed, when they cannot send off telegrams unless those telegrams are countersigned, and the correspondent's name, by virtue of the red tape, betrayed. In the present temper of the powers that be towards the Press, very few officers would dare to make such confession of connection with the Press; it is not to be expected that they should. And for the same reason it is almost as difficult for men in the army to send a letter even to a paper. They are almost sure to be found out, or at any rate they are so afraid of being found out, that such an enterprise is seldom risked. A man's prospects in his profession naturally enough weigh down any desire for connection with the Press, for the abatement of muddles and abuses, or consideration for the public's desire to get trustworthy news. The *Indian Daily News* is by no means isolated in unorthodox notions as to the muzzling of war correspondents, as may be seen from the complaints of other Indian journals. Of course we mean war correspondents not accredited by the home papers. Those lucky men seem able to get

anything they want. For instance, Mr. Archibald Forbes was able to transmit to his employers a full account of the affair at Ali Musjid so promptly, that it was published in London at 11 a.m. on the 22nd Nov. Says the *Englishman*, after referring to that little bit of favouritism:—"At late as the evening of the 23rd Nov., the telegraph authorities at Peshawar refused to transmit a perfectly harmless telegram, giving the main details of the taking of Ali Musjid, which was tendered by our correspondent for despatch; and this was only one of several messages, all equally innocuous, and referring only to accomplished facts, which they refused to accept for transmission. In fact, the telegraph wires were, as far as regards news from General Browne's force, absolutely closed to our correspondents for at least six days; and the same was, we believe, the case with every other Indian journal on whose behalf any attempt to use the wires was made. We may add that the answer made by the military authorities to applications for their countersignature was simply a refusal to trouble themselves about the matter."

The *News* also says our prisoners of war, with the guns and stores captured at Ali Musjid arrived at Lahore on the 24th and 25th Nov. The prisoners were half-starved, and many, being unable to walk, were sent in on donkeys. A grand procession of the arms captured, &c., went through the city.

Burmah, no less than the Australian colonies, would seem to be in danger of being ruined by Chinese cheap labor, for we read in a Rangoon paper that the Celestials are not only daily increasing in numbers, but are ousting the Burmese and Bengalee artisans out of the market.

The *Indian Tea Gazette* says a new species of tea shrub, resembling that which grows in China, has been discovered in Armenia, near Trebizond. The peasants pick the leaves and dry them in the sun, and large quantities have been sent to Persia, where the new product is highly appreciated.—The *Gazette* learns from the *Produce Markets' Review* that the supply of the finer grades of Indian Tea has been so much in excess of the demand, that holders have been unable to dispose of the tea placed on the market, and prices have throughout the week tended downwards, the finer descriptions of Pekoe, which show a decline of fully 2d. per lb., being the most affected. The consumption of tea, nevertheless, for the first nine months of this year shows an increase of about 8,000,000lbs. over the corresponding period of 1877.

FROM FRENCH GUIANA TO THE AMAZON.

The British Consul at Cayenne, Mr. Woolridge, calls attention in his report this year to the recent expedition into the interior of French Guiana which was undertaken by a navy doctor, Dr. Jules Crevaux, with two priests and 20 men. The priests fell ill in a month and returned to Cayenne, and the men also abandoned the doctor; but he had the pluck to persevere, and proceeding with one negro (a capital cook, but incapable of managing a boat) and a Boni savage picked up *en route*, ascended the Maroni river to the foot of the Tumac mountains, and crossed them, finally descending the Yari river and reaching the Amazon after a march of 142 days, having travelled over 500 leagues of land and water, 225 of which were over an entirely unexplored region. The doctor discovered the true delineation of this important affluent of the Amazon, the River Yari, the navigation of which is of the most perilous kind. During the journey he was laid up, at intervals, 35 days with fever. The Boni and Roucouyenne Indians, although not antagonistic to the white traveller, gave him no material help. The chief of the Bonis delayed him a month by pretending that no guides could at the time be spared; this was

done in the hope of obliging him to abandon his expedition, but he pushed on. The Roucouyenne Indians were cowardly enough to desert him at the most critical point, on arrival at the Grand Falls of the Yari river. His observations show that the chain is not so high as is generally believed, but it has an elevation of about 1,300 ft above the level of the sea. He points out also the remarkable difference in altitude between the valley through which the Maroni flows from the chain to the north, and that through which the Yari winds to the south. He states that there is one route by which, descending the River Yratapira, which has no rapids to speak of and falls into the Yari below its grand and most precipitous cataracts, the traveller could make the journey from Cayenne to the Amazon in 45 days. It appears that the negroes and Indians dwelling in the valley of the Maroni, carry their valuable wood and other rich vegetable productions to Dutch rather than French Guiana as a market, in consequence of the easier access, the town of Paramaribo being reached by canoes along a branch of the Maroni river flowing into the Surinam river. The Doctor is of opinion that the range of Tumac Humac hills is not the only source of the gold production in French Guiana, but that the lower chain running through the colony contains most of the gold which is found in and along the *crignes*. He found quantities of coal both in the valleys and on the hills. He says the Tumac Humac range must teem with gold, and it may be found in abundance among the rivulets. To reach the foot of the hills from the mouth of the Maroni takes 33 days' march at eight hours a day; and for 15 days, so sparse is the population of Indians along the river, there is no opportunity of obtaining provisions. Even when met with, the natives are not to be depended upon for revictualling until you reach the Roucouyennes. Dr. Crevaux gives an account of immense trees springing up like columns some 40 yards, bearing a pall of verdure impenetrable to the sun's rays, and of other wonderful sights in the "grand bois" of French Guiana through which he passed. The Consul mentions that 1,141 labourers were brought to Cayenne in 1877 from Pondicherry and Karikal; but the emigration of further labourers from India to Cayenne was then prohibited by the Indian Government for well-founded reasons. He states that the imports into Cayenne in 1877 were of the value of £442,543 but the exports reached only £196,586, of which £186,161 consisted of native gold. Gold, he says, has checked the progress of the colony and destroyed all agricultural tastes. More than once in the year, he declares, "we have been without bread to eat from a dearth of flour from Europe. The town of Cayenne has an unmistakable appearance of neglect and dilapidation. The streets are overgrown with grass."

obtain. The dress was taken to pieces and still remained in that state. She was willing to make it up again but could not do so to please the defendant, unless she had more silk.

Plaintiff stated that about a fortnight before the last Spring Races she took a piece of serge to the defendant and explained to her that she wished a serge and silk costume to be made. She took no silk with her, and asked defendant to buy a sufficient quantity for her and gave her an advance of \$10 to do so, telling her at the same time that she could have more dollars when she wanted them. The dress was to be made immediately, as she wanted it for the races. It was to be a nice handsome dress with silk apron and flounces, and defendant told her that eight yards of silk would be sufficient. A week afterwards she called on defendant to see if the dress was ready for her to fit on, but it had not been touched. She was not very strong just then and could not get about very well. She had to go five or six times to defendant's place of business before she got the dress, and it was late in the hot weather before it was sent to her. When she fitted it on she found it was three inches too small in the body, the sleeves were too short and so tight that she could not raise her hand to the top of her head, and it was six inches too short round the bottom. She was a dress-maker herself and was doing work for ladies now, and she knew the dress could not be altered to fit her properly. To make it fit in the waist pieces would have to be put in under each arm, and that was not proper in a lady's dress—it did not look nice. Besides there was a horrid little flounce on the skirt which she objected to, and she sent the dress back to be taken to pieces and made over again, and gave defendant twenty more dollars to get silk. It was then hot weather, and she was wearing whites, so the dress at that time if it had fitted properly was of no use to her. She asked defendant to make it up so that it would be ready for her in the winter. She went time after time to see if it was done, and defendant always said how sorry she was and made the excuse that she could not match the silk. She (plaintiff) told her she thought she could if she tried at some of the China stores, and defendant promised to try, but when she called again she made the same excuse—she could not match the silk. It was always the same when she called on defendant; she was sorry but she could not match the silk. The summer passed and she did not get the dress, and she had not got it yet. At Christmas the gentlemen in her house were going to have a party. She went and saw defendant and asked her to let her have the dress as she wanted to wear it at the party, but defendant again made the excuse that she could not match the silk, and said it could not be matched in Shanghai she was sure. Defendant wanted her to give her more money. It was utterly out of the question for her to do so when she had been kept out of her dress so long, but she told her that she should be paid her dollars as soon as she received the dress. Mrs. Baker was wrong when she said the silk could not be matched in Shanghai. Sayle and Co. had exactly the same kind of silk at \$1.60 a yard and Mrs. Baker had charged her \$3.25 a yard.

In answer to his Honour, defendant said the piece of the silk was \$3.25 a yard. She received eleven yards of serge from the plaintiff, and was to make it up into a costume, the style being left to her.

Plaintiff said she sent defendant fourteen yards of serge and another yard afterwards, making fifteen yards in all. Defendant was entirely wrong when she said she only got eleven yards.

Defendant, in reply to his Honour, said she was quite willing to make up the dress again as it was before, but she objected to spend her ready money in silk for the plaintiff and run the risk of not getting it back again. She got no per centage from Chinese stores, and could not buy material for the plaintiff as she did for her other customers. She objected to work for the plaintiff at all until she received an advance. She had already had to pay the tailor's wages for making the dress, and it still had to be made up again.

Plaintiff said defendant had a balance of something like five dollars in hand.

Defendant repeated her willingness to do the best she could with the dress without more silk.

Law Reports.

CIVIL SUMMARY COURT.

Shanghai, 14th Jan.

Before R. A. MOWAT, Esq.

Mrs. M. L. KING v. Mrs. J. H. BAKER.

Defendant is a dressmaker in the Kiungse Road, and plaintiff, who is also a dressmaker and keeps a boarding house in Hongkew, sought to recover \$30 money advanced, and \$22.25 the value of materials supplied for a dress.

Defendant, in answer to his Honour, admitted having received the \$30 and the materials, but explained that she made the plaintiff a dress and sent it to her eight months ago. The dress was returned by the plaintiff because she said it did not fit her and was not as she wanted it. She wished it to be taken to pieces and made up in different style, and to satisfy her taste more silk was required which she (defendant) could not

Plaintiff said it was impossible for the dress as it was to be made to fit her. It could be tacked together, and she was quite willing to put it on for his Honour to see. (Laughter.)

Defendant said she made the dress in a style that she thought would suit the plaintiff, and she would guarantee now to fit her.

Plaintiff reverted to the price she had been charged for the silk, and produced a muster which she said had been sent to her by the defendant, and silk like that could be got at Sayle and Co.'s for \$1.60 a yard.

Defendant said the muster was not like the silk of the dress—it was a darker colour and of an inferior quality. She sent it to the plaintiff for her to get some like it in the China stores, as she never went to them herself, thinking it would do for the dress, and she intended to take the other silk she had used back again. She was willing to do this to get the thing off her hands.

Plaintiff insisted that defendant represented that the muster produced was cut from the silk used in the making of the dress.

The muster was compared, and plaintiff said it matched and defendant said it did not.

In support of her view plaintiff said it was not usual for ladies to wear dresses made of two or three kinds of material.

His Honour said he believed ladies wore dresses of different shades of colour.

Plaintiff asked how a coat made of light and dark brown cloth with blue silk facings would look on a gentleman?

The further the investigation proceeded the more diametrically opposed became the parties, each contradicting what the other said, and under the circumstances his Honour said the case could not be disposed of till the dress was made again up by the defendant and tendered to the plaintiff. The case was a fitter one for another dressmaker to decide, and His Honour suggested that that course should be followed.

POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 13th Jan.

Before R. A. MOWAT, Esq.

R. (POLICE) v. ALFRED NEWMAN.

Prisoner, who was charged with stealing an orange and assaulting a Chinaman, was before the Court a week ago, when the case was investigated and reported in our columns.

It will be remembered that he was passing a fruiterer's shop, in the Broadway, Hongkew, when he took up an orange and walked away with it. The shopman followed him and demanded payment for the orange, whereupon prisoner struck him a violent blow on the face, cutting his cheek and discolouring it considerably. Prisoner admitted the assault, and he was remanded until to-day to see how the shopman's injury went on. The shopman now appeared, and the injury was nearly well, all the discolouration and swelling having disappeared. Beneath the eye he had sustained a cut about half-an-inch in length, which appeared to have been inflicted by some sharp instrument.

Prisoner had nothing further to say, and did not deny a previous conviction for assault, when he was sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment.

His Worship sent him to gaol for one month with hard labour.

R. (CHANG LEE-SHING) v. DANIEL O'FARRELL.

Prisoner is an able seaman staying at the Sailors' Home, and he is charged with stealing, in company with an American citizen named H. W. Lancaster, a camphor-wood box, of the value of \$3, from the shop of Chang Lee-shing, in the Broadway, Hongkew.

About six o'clock on Saturday night prisoner and Lancaster visited Chang Lee-shing's shop and represented that they wanted to buy a camphor-wood box. They selected one, the price of which was \$3.50, but the shopman agreed to sell it for \$3 and he carried it down to the Sailors' Home where he was to receive payment. On arriving at the Home prisoner and Lancaster left him, and the box was taken from him by other men, who assaulted him, striking him in the face knocking out one of his teeth and discolouring his cheek.

Later the same evening the box was taken on board the *Canon Harrison* by two men and sold to one of the crew named Axel Mamlborg for one dollar, and prisoner and another man the same evening had their moustachios cut off by a native barber in Hongkew. Prisoner and Lancaster were subsequently apprehended by the police, being pointed out to them by members of the crew of the *Canon Harrison*, as the men who had sold the box.

Chang Lee-shing, the man who agreed to sell the box, Axel Mamlborg, the sailor who bought it, S. Anderson, the watchman on board the *Canon Harrison*, and the barber who cut off the prisoner's moustache were examined. The three first-named were unable to swear positively to the prisoner. Mamlborg and Anderson believed that he was the man who brought the box on the *Canon Harrison*, but they would not swear that he was.

Mr. STRIPLING explained that on Saturday Anderson pointed the prisoner out to a policeman and identified him without the least reluctance, and it was strange that he could not do so now; but he thought he could obtain other witnesses from the *Canon Harrison* who could prove that he was the man who sold the box and received the dollar in payment.

His Worship adjourned the case till Wednesday for further evidence to be called.

14th Jan.

R. (CAPTAIN PREHN and A. CHAPMAN) v. RICHARD SMITH.

Defendant is cook on board the *Mikado*, and he appeared to answer two summonses, one charging him with using threatening language towards Captain Prehn, the master of the vessel, and the other with assaulting and using threatening language towards A. Chapman, the chief mate.

From the evidence it appeared that the *Mikado* arrived in port on the 9th inst., and that during the voyage from England defendant on three occasions had disobeyed the orders of the Captain and used disrespectful language towards him. On one occasion he defied the chief mate, and pushed him two or three times, and threatened to assault him.

Defendant admitted the offences, and tried to excuse himself by saying that he was out of temper when he used the bad language to the Captain, and that if the mate had waited five minutes he should not have done what he did to him.

Captain PREHN said defendant was the only man he had had any trouble with during the passage, and he was sure all hands would be glad if he would leave the ship.

Defendant, in reply to his Worship, refused to accept his discharge from the Captain, saying that he belonged to the reserves and was expected to return home in the vessel.

His WORSHIP fined him \$5 and costs for the assault, and the costs in the other case, and told him if he remained in the ship he would have to be bound over to keep the peace towards the mate and the others on board, in his own recognisance of \$50.

15th Jan.

R. (CHANG LEE-SHING) v. DANIEL O'FARRELL.

The Charge of Stealing a Box.

Prisoner, who is a sailor out of employment, was charged on remand from Monday with stealing a camphor-wood box the property of the prosecutor, who has a shop in the Broadway, Hongkew.

The facts of the case were published in our columns when prisoner was last before the Court, when, it will be remembered, neither the prosecutor nor the man who bought the box could identify the prisoner, and the other witness named Anderson also failed to recognise him in Court, although it was alleged he had been pointed out by him to the police as the man who sold the box on board the barque *Canon Harrison*. The police constable who apprehended the prisoner was now called, and stated that when he went on board the *Canon Harrison* to enquire into the case he saw Anderson, who told him that the man who sold the box was then in the fore-castle. Anderson took him to the fore-castle and pointed out the prisoner, who was asleep on a chest and was the worse for liquor. He

arrested him and took him to the Police Station.

His WORSHIP said he was satisfied as to the prisoner's identity without further evidence being called.

Prisoner protested his innocence, asserting that he knew no more about the box than his Worship did, that he was never out of the Sailors' Home on Saturday except for a short time when he had his moustache cut off, and that if he had stolen the box it was not likely he would go and stop on the vessel where it had been sold. He said none of the witnesses could identify him; they only thought he was the man.

His WORSHIP told the prisoner that he believed the witnesses from the *Canon Harrison* had not identified him because they did not like to do so, not because they could not. He had not the least doubt that he was the man, and he thought he had made the matter much worse by attempting to deny it.

Prisoner said if he had said anything else but denied it he should have told lies; as it was he had spoken the truth.

His WORSHIP wished he could think so, but he could not; and prisoner would have to go to gaol for two months' hard labour.

R. (CHANG AH-YUNG) v. MAHOMED.
Charge of Assault

Prisoner, who is a man of colour, is a watchman living in Hongkew. He surrendered on bail to answer a charge of violently assaulting and wounding Chang Ah-yung on the head by striking him with a stick.

Mr. STRIPLING explained to the Court that the prosecutor had not put in an appearance, although he had been warned to be in attendance. It appeared that prosecutor had been acting as hoy to the prisoner, who accused him of stealing half a dozen pocket handkerchiefs. Prosecutor denied the theft, whereupon prisoner struck him on the head with the stick produced, cutting his hat and bruising his head, but not seriously. The prosecutor was an old thief and had been twice deported, so probably they would not hear of him again. Prisoner had deposited \$10 for his appearance this morning.

His WORSHIP discharged the prisoner, and ordered the \$10 to be returned to him, saying that if the prosecutor wished to proceed against him he could do so by summons.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL.

Shanghai, 9th Jan.

Before D. H. BAILEY, Esq., *Vice Consul-General*.

D. C. JANSEN
and
S. S. GILBERT } *Assessors.*

JAMES N. JAMESON v. Messrs. OLYPHANT & Co.

Mr. J. J. HENDERSON appeared for the plaintiff.

Mr. WAINWRIGHT appeared for the defendant.

This was an action to recover the sum of Tls. 1,304 for alleged wrongful dismissal and consequent allowances.

Mr. HENDERSON, at the outset, asked for the decision of the Court on a motion he had filed, claiming a verdict on the pleadings owing to the insufficiency of the answer, which he maintained raised no substantial defence; and he argued that the bankruptcy proceedings of the defendants in Hongkong were altogether immaterial to the case.

Mr. WAINWRIGHT explained that he did not rely on the plea in reference to the bankruptcy, and had no objection to that portion of the answer being eliminated; but he contended that the general denials in the answer to the allegations in the petition raised a good defence to the claim.

The COURT decided in favour of the action being heard.

Mr. HENDERSON then proceeded to read the pleadings.

The petition set forth that the petitioner was a citizen of the United States, residing at Shanghai, and that the defendants, Messrs. W. W. Parkin, H. S. Geary, Talbot Olyphant, G. W. Talbot and J. F. Seaman, citizens of the United States, together with Tobias Pinn, are merchants and partners, com-

posing the firm of Olyphant and Company, doing business at Shanghai, China, and elsewhere. Since the 1st January, 1868, petitioner had been in the service of the defendants, and since the 30th June, 1870, or thereabouts, he had been in their service as corresponding and general clerk, under an agreement whereby defendants were to pay him for his services the sum of £600 per annum, together with such allowances as to quarters, board, time of notice of discharge, passage money home, etc., as were usually made to foreigners for like services in foreign merchants' offices in China. On the 19th December, 1878, defendants suspended all payment and ceased to transact business at Shanghai, and terminated and refused to carry out their said agreement, and dismissed the petitioner from their service without previous notice, and without any fault or misbehaviour on his part, and without paying, and refusing to pay, him the sum of Tls. 291.35, being the amount of unpaid salary to which he was entitled under his agreement, and which sum was still unpaid. It was alleged that by the custom of the port and country, foreign employes in like service with that of the petitioner were entitled to three months' notice on dismissal, together with a sufficient sum to defray the usual travelling and incidental expenses of a foreigner to the United States or Europe, and defendants refused to pay petitioner any sum whatever on account of such custom. By reason of the premises petitioner considered himself damaged in the sum of Tls. 291.35 on account of salary unpaid, and was further and specially damaged in the sum of Tls. 1,013.33, on account of loss of time and employment through being discharged without notice and loss of allowance for travelling expenses for the voyage home to the United States; therefore he prayed judgment against defendants for the sum of Tls. 1,304.68, together with the costs of the action, and for such other and further relief as in law or equity he might be entitled to.

The following is a memorandum of the petitioner's claim:—

For salary for three months at £600 per year = £150 exchange 4s. 6d. =	Tls.
\$666.67 at 72½	483.33
Mess allowance for three months at Tls. 60 per month	180.00
Passage home to the United States ...	350.00
	1,013.33

In their answer, defendants admitted the nationality of the petitioner and the constitution of their firm to be as stated in the petition. They also admitted that the petitioner was in their service from the 1st January, 1868, and that from the 30th June, 1870, or thereabouts he was in their service as corresponding and general clerk, and that they verbally agreed to pay to him for his services a salary of £600 sterling per annum, and to provide him with board and lodging. They also admitted that on the 9th December, 1878, they suspended payment in Shanghai, and in consequence thereof they, on the 19th of the same month, gave notice to the petitioner that they no longer required his services, and they admitted that there was due from them to him, for the balance of his salary up to the said 19th Dec., the sum of Tls. 237.63. Save as hereinbefore appears defendants denied all the allegations in the petition, and alleged that their agreement with the petitioner was made in the British Colony of Hongkong, where they then were and have since been carrying on business. Since the accruing of petitioner's claim they had taken proceedings in Hongkong to make themselves bankrupt according to the law in force in Hongkong, that such proceedings were still pending, and that it was competent to him to come in under the said bankruptcy and receive any preferential payment to which by law he might be entitled, and also a dividend on the balance if any of any debt he might prove against the defendants in respect of so much of the claim set forth in the petition as might be allowed; and defendants considered it inequitable that the petitioner should receive payment of his claim in full while there was an insufficiency of assets to pay all their debts. They, therefore, prayed that the petition be dismissed, the petitioner decreed to pay the costs, and that they might have such further or other relief as to the Court might seem meet.

Mr. J. N. JAMESON, the plaintiff, deposed, —I am an American citizen, and am the plaintiff in this case. I am acquainted with some of the members of the firm of Olyphant and Co., but not with all of them. I have been in the service of their firm since January, 1868. Originally I was in the firm at Hongkong, where I was engaged. Afterwards I was sent to Foochow, and when Mr. Thoms went home I returned to Hongkong and took his desk. Subsequently I came to Shanghai and filled the same position here—corresponding and general clerk. I had no written agreement with the firm. One of the partners, Mr. Hitchcock, came to my desk one day and said something to the effect that I was underpaid for the work I was doing, and from what he said I understood that I was engaged on the same terms as Mr. Thoms, my predecessor, had been. Mr. Hitchcock instructed the bookkeeper to credit me with the same salary as Mr. Thoms was to have received, namely £400 for the first year, £500 for the second, and £600 for the third year, and I have received £600 a year ever since, with board and lodging. I understood those were the terms of Mr. Thoms' agreement, and I concluded that mine were the same. Mr. Thoms went home about 1870. He was only a few months in the firm. It was soon after I took his desk that Mr. Hitchcock came and told me that I was to receive the same salary as Mr. Thoms. I don't think the question of notice at leaving, or passage money home, was ever mentioned. I don't think it ever entered my head. I knew I was to receive so many hundred pounds a year with board, and that was all. I never thought of the question of dismissal, and I don't remember Mr. Hitchcock saying anything to me about it. I expected to be treated according to the terms of Mr. Thoms' agreement. I don't know how Mr. Thoms was treated when he left the firm, but from a letter he sent to me from Bombay I have reason to believe that his passage home was paid by the firm. That is simply what I believe, but I cannot swear whether such was the case or not. I accepted notice of dismissal on the 19th December, 1878. It was not in writing. Mr. Wisner came to me at my desk and asked me if I would receive his verbal notice instead of a written one, and I consented to do so. On the 31st December, 1878, Tls. 291 were due me on account of salary. From the enquiries I have made, it is customary, according to my information, for an allowance to be made to a foreign employe when he is dismissed from a merchant's office as I have been. From three to six months is the term of notice generally given I believe. At all events I should consider that reasonable notice. When there is no notice I am told it is the custom for compensation to be given, and that it is also customary for the firm to pay passage home or its equivalent. I claim Tls. 291.35 for unpaid salary up to the 31st December, and then I claim three months' salary in lieu of notice, an allowance for board and lodging and the passage home, amounting altogether to Tls. 1,013.33, which makes up the total claim of Tls. 1,304.

Cross-examined by Mr. WAINWRIGHT—I was employed in Hongkong before I entered the service of Messrs. Olyphant and Co. They engaged me in Hongkong. I did not come from home to enter their service. I had no agreement when I came out from home. Mr. Thoms was not in Olyphant and Co.'s employ when I first joined them. He entered their service after I did. He only stayed a short time, and went home on account of ill-health. I think he must have had a written agreement, but I never saw it. I believe his agreement was for three years. I say so principally from the fact that his salary was to be £400, £500 and £600.

Re-examined by Mr. HENDERSON—I have been in Shanghai since July, 1877. I have inquired from members of the firm whether Mr. Thoms' agreement, if he had one, was in existence, and I was told that in all probability it had been destroyed with old papers as useless. I understood that under his agreement, and under the custom which prevails in Shanghai, that he was entitled to notice before dismissal, and to the payment of his passage home, and I have good reason to believe that his passage home was paid.

By the COURT.—The amount might be in

the books of the firm, but I have never looked for it.

Mr. JOHN ASHTON, Secretary of the Shanghai Club, deposed that he had resided in the East for twenty-nine years. Upon the discharge of an employe similar to Mr. Jameson, it was customary for him to receive a reasonable notice. He believed that to be the custom in Shanghai, and he could speak from personal experience as to what was done when Messrs. Lindsay and Co. suspended payment. In that case the employes were compensated. He had never known a case of an old employe in a firm being suddenly discharged without notice, and he believed it was contrary to the usage of the place. His experience was that six months' notice of dismissal was given, or compensation; but he should say it was unusual for a firm to pay for the passage home of an employe unless it was specially stipulated for in the contract of service. He had no personal knowledge in regard to the payment for the passage home, but he had on the other point, and in his case compensation was given in lieu of notice.

Cross-examined by Mr. WAINWRIGHT.—Messrs. Lindsay and Co.'s affairs did not go into bankruptcy; they arranged with their creditors. The firm was insolvent. There was a fair amount of assets, and the trustees fixed the allowance that was given to the employes. All the clerks, he believed, were under written agreements, and so far as he remembered they were to have a free passage home. Lindsay and Co. failed in 1865. He believed an allowance was also made in the cases of Messrs. Smith, Kennedy & Co., and Messrs. Dent and Co., when no notice of dismissal was given to the clerks.

Re-examined by Mr. HENDERSON—He did not know what was done in the case of Heard and Co.

Mr. F. GROSE was the next witness. He deposed—I have been in China seven years, and was formerly connected with the house of Messrs. Russell and Co. I believe it to be a custom that when foreigners are discharged by their employers, as Mr. Jameson has been in this case, they receive an allowance. It was done in my case when I left the employ of Messrs. Russell and Co. I and others in the house were first notified in January, 1877, that probably our services would not be long required as the S.S.N. Co. was likely to be handed over to the Chinese, and in May I was told definitely that my services would not be required any longer, but that my salary would be paid up to the end of June and that I should receive a bonus of \$1,000, which was carried out. My salary was \$1,500 a year, so that I received about nine months' full pay when I left the firm. Several other clerks left at the same time I did, and were similarly treated. I believe some of them had their passage home paid. I was told that my passage would be paid in case I could not find employment in Shanghai.

The COURT then adjourned.

On re-assembling in the afternoon,

Mr. A. C. WESTALL was called—He deposed that he had been between 17 and 18 years in China, and was well acquainted with the customs prevailing in Shanghai. As regarded notice of dismissal, he only knew of one rule in English firms, and that was six months' notice on either side. In 1866 he was discharged under similar circumstances to those in the present case, and he was allowed six months' pay from the date of the bankruptcy, and his passage home was also paid. Two or three others were treated in a like manner. The allowance was made on the authority of Sir Edmund Hornby, whose opinion was asked on the matter, and he believed the same course was followed in the case of Dent and Co. The point had never been mooted before, and the firm consulted Sir Edmund Hornby to ascertain whether they would be justified in making an allowance, and the decision was in favour of the employes having six months' notice or compensation, notwithstanding the bankruptcy, and their passage paid home if they could not obtain employment in Shanghai. Sir Edmund Hornby gave this decision in chambers, and he was not aware that there was any record of it. It seemed to him a just and equitable decision, and in the house with which he was subsequently connected the rule of six months' notice on either side was adopted.

Cross-examined by Mr. WAINSWRIGHT.—The firm which gave him the six months' allowance in 1866, was Smith, Kennedy and Co. He had a written agreement in which six months' notice was provided for. His fellow employes had similar agreements. He was not aware whether Messrs. Dent and Co. were adjudicated bankrupts in Shanghai or not, but he was under the impression that their employes obtained a six months' allowance.

This concluded the plaintiff's case.

Mr. WAINSWRIGHT, in opening the case on behalf of the defendants, said he should be very brief indeed, as he should have another opportunity of speaking. All he desired to do at this stage was to explain that Messrs. Olyphant and Co. were defending the suit simply because they considered it their duty to do so in the interests of the general body of creditors, and that they were actuated by no ill-will or unpleasant feeling towards Mr. Jameson, of whom they had a very high opinion. Other cases of a similar kind were pending, and it was important in the interests of the creditors that defendants should act under the direction of the Court, and that each case should be heard on its merits. If the Court considered it right that Mr. Jameson and the other employes should be remunerated under the circumstances, defendants, he was sure, would not demur to such a decision, as it was only an act of justice to their other creditors that the matter had been brought before the Court. He had only one witness to call, and his evidence would be brief.

Mr. J. F. SEAMAN deposed—I am a partner in the firm of Messrs. Olyphant and Co., the defendants in this suit. I have been connected with the firm since 1861, and have been a partner since July, 1874, or 1873. I am not sure whether it was 1873 or 1874 that I was made a partner. I know nothing whatever of my own knowledge about the terms under which Mr. Jameson entered the firm. What I know is what Mr. Jameson himself has told me, and from what I have derived from the books. I know from the books that he has been receiving a salary of £600 a year. His salary has not been credited always monthly, but as a rule the salaries are credited monthly. I know nothing of the terms of the agreement Mr. Thoms had with the firm. I know of my own knowledge that he came out from England under an agreement. He was engaged by our agents in London. I have not a copy of his agreement, and cannot remember what the terms of it were. There has been a variety of customs in our firm in reference to the terms on which employes have been engaged. Men have been engaged by our agents and sent out to China under written agreements, while others have been engaged in China with no settled terms except as regards salary. Witness produced Mr. H. E. Hollingworth's agreement with the firm. The fourth clause stipulated that in case Mr. Hollingworth had to return home under medical advice, the agreement would terminate when he ceased his duties, and there was nothing said about the passage money home being paid. In the case of employes engaged in China it was the custom of the firm not to make any stipulation as to notice, and nothing was ever said about passage home; and Mr. Jameson was engaged in China. I have no knowledge of the general custom prevailing in Shanghai, but my experience of our own house is that I have known men pay their own passage home.

Cross-examined by Mr. HENDERSON.—There has been no regular custom in the firm in reference to engagements—some had agreements in writing and others had not. Before I was a partner I was fifteen or sixteen years a clerk in the firm, and I never had a line of writing, while others always have writing. In some of the written agreements I have there is no mention of notice of dismissal or of the passage home being paid.

Mr. HENDERSON pointed out that this witness' evidence went to prove mutual confidence between Mr. Jameson and the firm—he trusted the firm and the firm trusted him. They trusted one another to do what was fair, reasonable and proper according to the custom of the country; and as a matter of equity he claimed the verdict of the Court.

Mr. WAINSWRIGHT then summed up on behalf of the defendants, pointing out in the

first place that there was no evidence as to the original agreement between the plaintiff and defendants except that of the plaintiff himself, and plaintiff had admitted that he was engaged not in England or America but in Hongkong, where he had been employed before he joined the defendants' firm; therefore he could not be entitled to a passage home, but for summary dismissal he might be entitled to some allowance which it would be for the Court to assess. From some conversation the plaintiff had with Mr. HITCHCOCK, one of the partners of the firm, he got the impression—and it was only an impression—that he was engaged on the same terms as Mr. Thoms, and he understood that Mr. Thoms had a written agreement under which his passage home was to be paid, but in reality nothing was known of the terms of Mr. Thoms' agreement, and there was even a doubt whether he had an agreement at all. He reviewed the evidence of the plaintiff at some length, and thought that it was too vague for any reliance to be placed on it by the Court. Three witnesses had been called to prove what was the custom of the port in regard to notice of dismissal and passage home, and more vague evidence than that they had given could scarcely be imagined. Mr. ASHTON had stated that in the case of Messrs. Lindsay and Co., a six months' allowance was given in lieu of notice; but that in case there was a tolerably large amount of assets and the amount was allowed by the trustees. There was no proof that it was obligatory on the firm to give the allowance; and Mr. ASHTON had given his opinion that it was unusual to pay the passage home unless it was stipulated for in the agreement. The second witness called to establish the custom was Mr. GROSE, who had been liberally compensated by Messrs. Russell and Co. after an advantageous sale of the S.S.N. Co.'s property to the China Merchants' Company, which was vastly different to the circumstances of the present case; and, moreover, he maintained that Mr. GROSE's evidence was inconsistent with the custom plaintiff wished to establish. The other witness, Mr. WESTALL, said that the custom was for six months' notice or compensation to be given, and he based that on his own experience in the case of Smith, Kennedy & Co., and a decision by Sir Edmund Hornby. There was no record of such a decision having been given, and Mr. WESTALL only spoke from recollection of what took place over ten years ago; therefore he thought the Court could not attach much weight to that. As a matter of law if Dent and Co. or Smith, Kennedy and Co. were in liquidation or bankruptcy, the utmost extent to which their employes could have been remunerated was £50, and in the United States the amount allowed, he believed, was \$50, with the opportunity of proving for a further sum with the general body of creditors. He submitted that the evidence was altogether too vague and contradictory to support the custom upon which the plaintiff relied, and he pointed out that it was in opposition to the theory set forth in the petition and the plaintiff's own evidence. He then cited Balfour Browne's book on "Usage and Customs," page 21, and Parsons on Contracts, vol. 2, 5th edition, page 510, to show what was the legal definition of a custom, and then, in conclusion, said he was not prepared to deny that plaintiff was not entitled to some compensation for not receiving due notice of dismissal, and it would be for the Court to fix the amount they considered he ought to receive, and in doing so the Court should not overlook the opportunities a man like Mr. Jameson might have of obtaining employment. Something would have to be allowed he was quite willing to admit, and it was only fair to the general body of creditors that the amount should be fixed by the Court; but after decision was given he should have to ask for execution to be stayed as proceedings were pending in America.

Mr. HENDERSON, in replying on behalf of the plaintiff, stated in reference to Mr. Wainwright's proposed application for execution to be stayed, that the bankruptcy laws of the United States had no effect beyond the States, and in support thereof he cited the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Baldwin v. Hales, reported in 1 Wallace, page 223. He maintained that the testimony adduced by the plaintiff and his witnesses was remarkable for its uniformity, and

strongly established the custom of six months' notice of dismissal or compensation in lieu thereof. The absence of a written agreement between the parties, he maintained, showed that they entered into the contract mutually trusting each other, and the custom of the place was part of that contract, and plaintiff, as a matter of equity, if not of law also, was entitled to compensation.

The COURT said that inasmuch as there were questions involved that required reflection and examination judgment would be reserved.

10th January.

To-day, Mr. Henderson appeared in Court and applied for the petition to be amended. He explained that in calculating the unpaid salary it was alleged the petitioner was entitled to, a mistake had been made, whereby petitioner was deprived of six months salary.

The COURT said the application would be recorded, and notice of it given to the defendants' legal adviser.

F. W. CALL v. Messrs. OLYPHANT AND CO.

Mr. J. J. HENDERSON appeared for the plaintiff.

Mr. WAINSWRIGHT appeared for the defendant.

This was an action in which Captain F. W. Call, master of the American barque *Vesuvius*, sought to recover Tls. 505, from the defendants for breach of contract.

Under a charter party made at New York on the 28th March, 1878, the *Vesuvius* brought a cargo of merchandise to Shanghai, for which defendants covenanted to pay the sum of £2,000, as freight. Defendants paid Tls. 7,461 on account, but neglected to pay the balance, namely Tls. 505, hence the present action.

Defendants admitted indebtedness to the amount of Tls. 469, the difference being deducted for the short delivery of six tons of coals.

On the application of Mr. Henderson, judgment was entered for the sum of Tls. 469 with costs.

13th Jan.

Before D. H. BAILEY, Esq., Vice Consul-General.

The barque *Vesuvius* v. Messrs. OLYPHANT AND CO.

Mr. J. J. HENDERSON appeared on behalf of Captain F. W. Call, master of the *Vesuvius*. Mr. WAINSWRIGHT appeared on behalf of Messrs. Olyphant and Co.

The plaintiff, Captain Call, obtained judgment in an action against defendants on the 9th instant for the sum of Tls. 469, with costs, for freight remaining unpaid by them on a cargo of merchandise brought by the *Vesuvius* from New York to Shanghai under a charter party dated the 28th March, 1878; and Mr. Wainwright now applied by motion on behalf of defendants for execution to be stayed.

Mr. WAINSWRIGHT, at the outset, read the motion, which asked that execution might be suspended until such time had elapsed as would be necessary for procuring, from the United States, particulars and evidence of proceedings now pending there for the general liquidation of the defendants' estate, or until the further order of the Court. He then explained that Mr. J. F. Seaman, the representative of the defendants' firm in Shanghai, had, in support of the motion, filed an affidavit, which was as follows:—

JOHN F. SEAMAN, one of the defendants in this cause, being duly sworn, says:—

That he is the only member of the above mentioned firm of Olyphant and Co. at present in Shanghai.

That the said firm until lately carried on business at New York in the United States of America, at Victoria in the British Colony of Hongkong, and at Canton, Foochow and Shanghai, in China.

That early in the month of December last, the branch of the said firm in Hongkong and through it the branches at Canton, Foochow and Shanghai respectively, received information by telegraph that the said firm had suspended payment in New York and instructions that the said branches should suspend payment also, and the said branches have suspended payment accordingly.

That he, this deponent, on the 14th December last, in answer to a message relative to the affairs of the said firm sent by him by

telegraph to the firm in New York, received a reply signed "Olmsted, official assignee."

That on the 7th January inst. he, this deponent, sent or caused to be sent by telegraph to New York, addressed to the said firm of Olyphant and Co., the following message, namely: "What proceedings have been taken by yourselves with regard to liquidation. Consular Court will not recognise Hongkong proceedings. Is most important that we should have particulars. Telegraph fully at once."

That to the said message he, on the 9th January, received the following reply, namely, "Certified copy, assignment, and definite instructions have been sent per mail. Collect all you possibly can; do not pay anything further. Further liquidation must be here."

That the said last mentioned message was signed Olmsted.

That this deponent has received no information by telegraph or otherwise, which contradicts or modifies the information so received by him as aforesaid.

Mr. WAINWRIGHT said this affidavit disclosed the facts upon which the application was based. The application was made not in the interests of the members of the firm of Messrs. Olyphant and Co., who it was well-known had suspended payment, but in the interest of the general body of their creditors. The firm regarded themselves as trustees for their creditors, and that it was their duty to prevent any single creditor getting a larger share of their assets than the others—the firm were anxious that their estate should be distributed *pro rata* among all their creditors according to the claims they had. That was the position Messrs. Olyphant and Co. conceived themselves to be in, and it was on that footing that they now appeared to support the motion. He should not trouble the Court with much law on the point, for unfortunately they were considerably in the dark as to the exact state of the bankruptcy law in the United States at the present time. Up to a few months ago there was a bankruptcy law of the United States under which this Court had restrained proceedings against a person in Shanghai, there being at the same time bankruptcy proceedings pending against him in the United States. But that law they were told had been repealed, but of the terms of the repealing act, or whether or not anything had been substituted or a law defined by the repealing act, they were entirely ignorant. Not having the act of Congress before him to deal with, he conceived it would be of very little use to argue on law which, unknown to them, might have been upset. He should base his application on the very wide powers which the Court possessed in dealing with matters of bankruptcy. That this Court is pre-eminently a Court of equity, no one, he thought, would venture to deny; and under the very peculiar circumstances in which the Shanghai community is placed, he imagined it had power to do anything that would work justice and give people their fair and equitable rights. It was upon the 55th regulation of the Court that he relied for the success of the motion. That regulation read that until promulgation of further regulations, Consuls will continue to exercise their former lawful jurisdiction and authority in bankruptcy, partnerships, probate of wills, administration of estates, and other matters of equity, admiralty, ecclesiastical and common law, not specially provided for in previous decrees, "according to such reasonable rules, not repugnant to the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States, as they may find it necessary or convenient to adopt." That regulation Mr. Wainwright thought gave the Court very wide discretion. He did not ask the Court to stay any action or lay down a precedent or rule to be followed hereafter; all he asked for on the strength of that regulation was an extension of time to enable them to get possession of the evidence showing them what was the actual position of affairs. He reviewed at some length the facts set forth in the telegram which appeared in Mr. Seaman's affidavit, laying stress on the fact that it was signed by Mr. Olmsted the official assignee, who in that capacity had said that the liquidation proceedings must be in the United States, and had instructed the firm here to collect all they could and to pay nothing further; so that it would appear that in his opinion the defendants were not compelled to pay anything more. It was only reasonable,

he thought, for them to assume that the telegram had not been sent in ignorance of what was the law in the case. On the contrary, they were in a better position in New York to be well-informed as to what was the present state of the law, and what Messrs. Olyphant and Co. would have to do in connection with their affairs. All he asked the Court to do, therefore, was simply to draw the inference from the telegrams that there were documents on their way out which would throw some light on the position of affairs, and upon the powers and rights of the parties all round, and also as to the law that should guide them; and it was on those particulars that he based his application. He was afraid that there was a great deal of law which could be advanced against him, as to the proceedings of one state not affecting actions and processes in another state, and no doubt it would be argued by his learned friend on the other side that there could be no state law at the present time because there had not been sufficient time to pass one since the abrogation of the act of 1867. With reference to that point, he thought he could successfully contend that the laws of the several states relating to insolvency had only been in suspension while the act of 1867 had been in force, and that most probably they had now been revived. In support thereof he produced a copy of the general laws of the State of California from 1855 to 1864, published in 1870, which contained an insolvency act; therefore he submitted that they were not to assume that there was no law on the subject because the general act of 1867 had been swept away. In reference to what might be said by his learned friend as to the application of United States law in China, he referred the Court to the case of *Pang E-tai v. Augustine Heard and Co.*, in which Mr. O. B. Bradford, Vice-Consul-General, in January, 1876, restrained proceedings taken in Shanghai on the ground that there were bankruptcy proceedings pending in the United States. He submitted that the Court, in the exercise of its discretion, allowing that the act of 1867 had been repealed, in the absence of information, that it would be an unjust thing, could, in the interests of justice and equity, stay execution in this case until the exact position of affairs had been ascertained, it being in evidence that papers were on their way to China which would explain matters. Under such circumstances, and considering the peculiarities of Shanghai, the great distance it was from headquarters, it was only reasonable, he thought, to ask for an opportunity to furnish information as to the law and the position of affairs, and in the absence of anything to prevent the Court exercising the discretion conferred on it by the 55th Regulation, the Court he maintained, as a matter of equity and justice, could stay execution in accordance with the terms of the motion.

Mr. HENDERSON, on behalf of the *Vesuvius*, said that this was the first time in the course of his experience that a proceeding like the present had been attempted. It was an attempt on the part of the defendants, who had not taken the trouble to release the attachment on behalf of the creditors, to set aside a decree of the American Court of Admiralty, to ascertain something that might or might not be done by some unknown person in New York, and under what act, or how this something was to be done, it would be difficult to imagine. It was an attempt to divest the Court of its jurisdiction in Admiralty, where an attachment had been made and rested; and that attachment stood as high in the law as any lien which a ship could have for freight, being on the same footing as bottomry and mariners wages. No judgment of any Court in the United States, showing that defendants had been adjudicated bankrupts a dozen times over, could divest the Court of its jurisdiction or dissolve the attachment it had made for the payment of the freight earned by the *Vesuvius*. Defendants were trying to defeat justice, to prolong litigation, and if they established everything they had put forward, there was not the shadow of a standing to entitle them to what they had asked for. In the first place, he would argue that this was a motion for the stay of the execution of a decree of the Court against goods attached in Admiralty to secure the payment due on a charter party for the

conveyance of goods from the United States to China. Now the United States are all one to residents in China. Residents here know of state of New York, they know no state on California; they only know the United States, and it was the law of the United States to which they had to conform in this Court and not the law of particular states. He believed he was right when he said that the defendants left the United States before or soon after their majority, and that therefore they were what was sometimes called lost-citizens. At all events they could not claim citizenship to any particular state in the Union, and therefore it was the law of the United States that controlled this case. The motion asked for execution to be stayed, which of course meant that the *Vesuvius* was to be detained until she could get her freight; a course of proceedings in Admiralty entirely foreign to his experience. In order that the defendants might be entitled to the stay of execution of the decree already pronounced, it was necessary for them to establish affirmatively every fact in their favour. In the first place it was their duty to establish their bankruptcy or insolvency, and they must establish that the bankruptcy or insolvent law under which the motion was made was in existence and that it was in operation in China; that such law was also in operation when the charter party of the *Vesuvius* was made; that the parties, libellant and respondent, and all of them, must be shown to have been domiciled in the state of New York when the charter party was made, in order that the law of New York should control that contract; and defendants must prove that not only was the contract made in the state of New York but that it was executed in that state. The bankruptcy of the defendants must also be proved to have occurred and been adjudicated anterior to the charter party being entered into for the freight claimed, and unquestionably before the rendering of the decree and attachment of the Court. The right of the assignee must be shown to be one which stands higher and is more favoured than the lien by attachment in Admiralty for freight—it must be more favoured than the claim of a ship on the cargo or against shipper or assignees for freight; and he had not the least hesitation in asserting that the assignee was the only person who could appear in the Court and ask for the stay of the proceedings. It was not a case of bankruptcy at all—it was purely one of Admiralty, and defendants had no status in Court as against the plaintiff's claim; for an application for stay of proceedings in bankruptcy could only be made by and in the name of the assignee. Another proposition was that when a State Court and the United States Court both have jurisdiction *in rem*, the one which first exercised it and took possession had exclusive jurisdiction; and finally he urged that any action of the Court to stay execution would be without the authority of law or precedent in the practice of the Admiralty Court of New York. Then he proceeded to analyse the evidence in the case, maintaining that there was nothing to prove that defendants were insolvent, which was the first and central fact for them to establish. The only evidence they had was that the firm of Olyphant and Co. had suspended payment, which was neither insolvency nor bankruptcy. There was nothing to show that defendants were insolvent, which was an important fact; and there was no proof that they had been adjudicated bankrupt. Then in the telegrams that had been read, who was Mr. Olmsted, the official assignee? Defendants did not know who he was, and the Court was in entire ignorance of the existence of such a man. He maintained that the Court could not keep the *Vesuvius* waiting in Shanghai, losing time and spending money, for her freight, because a telegram had been received signed by Olmsted, official assignee. The proposition was most astounding to him, and must be equally so to the Court. In his opinion, it was not of the slightest importance to the defendants or their creditors, because it was well known an attachment for freight stood so high in law that it was generally paid in full; it was a kind of preference claim in bankruptcy which was equivalent to a secured claim. He maintained that not one of the necessary facts had been established by the affidavit to support the motion, and proceeded to enlarge on the points he had

raised, maintaining that it was necessary for the defendants to establish that the bankruptcy or insolvent law under which these proceedings were taken was in existence. He took it that the proceedings were taken under the act of Congress of 1867, establishing uniformity in bankruptcy in the States as far as possible, or some other insolvent law of the United States. His learned friend had reminded them of a decision in this Court in 1876, and he would refer the Court to a decision given in the United States Court at Yokohama, in which it was decided most positively that the bankruptcy laws of the United States did not extend beyond the territory of the United States—they had no extraterritorial jurisdiction. The United States Court at Amoy had decided the same question; and if his modesty would allow him he would state that he had the honour to make the decision on a careful review of the whole question, and after having some experience of the bankruptcy laws in America. The only thing that surprised him was that it should be attempted to enforce the bankruptcy laws of the United States in this country. It was unquestionably a fact that the Court was obliged to take notice of the fact that the act of 1867 was repealed in September of last year, and with regard to the repeal of that act it was incumbent on the defendants to prove that there was an act under which the proceedings had been taken, and which is now in operation and can be extended to China. No such law was in existence in the United States, and state laws did not apply here. He then cited numerous authorities in support of the various points he had raised, and asked that the motion be dismissed with costs, as being without authority or precedent, and as an anomaly in the proceedings of the American Court of Admiralty, and that a Counsel's fee of Tls. 100 be allowed in taxing the costs.

Mr. WAINEWRIGHT, in replying, regretted that he had to commence by repeating the remarks with which he had originally set out. He was somewhat surprised at the degree of heat suffused over the argument of his learned friend, who seemed to think that the defendants were doing something very improper, and that they had some motive of self interest in making the motion. He thought it was obvious to every one that they had no interest in the matter. He was sorry to say that their's was a case of an insolvent firm and in consequence it did not matter to them personally whether the Captain of the *Vesuvius* or Mr. A. or B. C. or D. of their creditors got their money. All of it would have to go, and they could have no improper motive in submitting the matter for the decision of the Court. They wished to hold an even hand between the parties, and all they had been actuated by was a desire, in the absence of definite news of their affairs, to do justice to the general body of creditors, and they now asked for the decision of the Court as to whether it was just and legal that one creditor should have the preference over the others. He was under considerable personal disadvantages in this matter, as necessarily he had not had so much experience with the laws of the United States as his learned friend had, and therefore was not so well acquainted with them, nor had he the honour to be able to refer the Court to any decision of his own. Still he could refer to the important fact that by a decision of this Court proceedings here had been stayed while proceedings in bankruptcy were pending in the States; and he submitted that it was for the Court to uphold as far as possible its previous decisions. Placed as we are in China in a mixed community, with a complication of laws and procedure, if an additional element of uncertainty was to be introduced, uncertainty that the Court had jurisdiction in bankruptcy, he thought it would be a very unfortunate position for American citizens to find themselves in. It was undesirable in the interests of American citizens themselves that the Court having assumed jurisdiction in bankruptcy, having over and over again made people bankrupt, and otherwise recognized bankruptcy proceedings, should turn round and say it has no jurisdiction in matters of bankruptcy at all, and all past decisions must be ignored. A Court like that in a place like Shanghai should be guided more by the general principle of doing justice between parties than by the legal refinements which

were imported into matters at Home, for an undue attention to technicalities generally resulted in injustice to one or other of the parties. He hoped the Court would give that broad interpretation to the 55th regulation that it was evidently intended should be given to it, and not place any weight on the technicalities raised by his friend, for, if they were to apply what he had said in regard to the domicile of American citizens in some particular state to the community in Shanghai, we should be in complete chaos and probably all laws would be found to be inoperative. He analysed the points raised by his learned friend and maintained that the law of admiralty lien he had laid down did not apply, because there was no lien, the goods having passed out of the defendants' hands. Then as to the attachment. It was of the ordinary kind made under the 14th Regulation, and was not a special one in Admiralty. Plaintiff would be under no hardship by the granting of this motion, because the money could be remitted to him in New York, and it was not to be supposed that he would keep his ship in Shanghai for the small sum of Tls. 500. The Court was not fettered by any technical restrictions, and had ample power to stay execution if it considered it reasonable to do so, and certainly it did seem to him most reasonable that it should stay proceedings to ascertain the true state of affairs. In conclusion he spoke of the application for Tls. 100 as Counsel's fee, as perfectly new to the proceedings of the Court, and before it was granted asked to be allowed to make a few observations in regard to it.

Mr. HENDERSON explained that he did not think he had displayed the "heat" imputed to him by Mr. Wainwright, and in reference to his application for Tls. 100 as Counsel's fee, he made it in the interest of his client, having at the same time deep sympathy with the defendants. He was not aware that he had said an unkind word; if he had done so, he was very sorry and begged to apologise.

The Court reserved its decision.

14th Jan.

Assault.

THOMAS HENDERSON, a sailor recently discharged from the barque *Annie Fish*, was brought up in custody charged with assaulting Chang Lee-shing, who has a shop on the Broadway, Hongkew.

Two sailors went to the prosecutor's shop on Saturday night and got him to carry a camphor-wood box down to the Sailors' Home, under circumstances which appeared in our issue of yesterday. While in the Home prosecutor was badly assaulted, and the evidence tended to prove that prisoner was one of the men who illused him. He was seen by a native constable to push him down. Several sailors were standing near at the time, but only one of them came forward to give evidence, and he was so reticent that little could be got from him.

The Court believed that prisoner had assaulted the prosecutor, and fined him \$2 and sent him to gaol for one week.

MIXED COURT.

Shanghai, 10th Jan.

Before the Chinese Magistrate CHEN, and C. F. R. ALLEN, Esq., British Assessor.

Systematic Felonies.

Two well-known native thieves were brought up in the custody of the Municipal police on five different charges of felony. It appeared from the evidence adduced that prisoners were in the habit of frequenting the opium shops attended by well-to-do Chinese, and, taking advantage of somnolent smokers, they walked off with coats or any valuables they could get into their possession. In this way prisoners have made a lucrative livelihood for some months past. It was proved that they had recently pawned five valuable skin coats, and other charges might have been brought against them. One of them was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, and the other to one year's imprisonment.

Extracts.

THE PAMIR MOUNTAINS.

(The Times.)

We have already referred to the exploration of the Pamir plateau by the Russian geologist Muschketow, and from the *Russische Revue* we gather the following details on the structure of the Pamir and Alai, according to the observations of the explorer. He ascertained that mainly granite, metamorphic clay, and mica-slate, which are covered with beds of trias formation, form the structure of the Pamir, at least of the northern part or Pamir Chargosch. The direction of all the granite outcrops is that of the general direction of the Thean Shan—viz., east-north-east, or nearly so. North of the Pamir the granite soon ceases, and in the Trans-Alai mountains diorite predominates, which takes the east-west direction of the main axis of elevation of the Trans-Alai mountains and forms the highest summits, which, as in Kaufmann Peak, reach a height of 25,000ft. Further north secondary formations prevail, with great alluvial accumulations. On the whole, in the region explored by him, M. Muschketow could recognize no meridional elevation which could favour the existence of a meridional mountain system, the Boler; rather, from the identity of composition, direction, and geological age of the Pamir mountains with the northern Thean Shan, might one be convinced of the absence of any such meridional mountains as was assumed by Humboldt. On the ground of the geological structure of the Pamir and Alai, as well on the basis of the geological data collected by Stoleczka, he finds no support for the assumption of a regular meridional mountain system. The aspect of these mountains he explains by the fact that eastward from the Kara-Kul the Trans-Alai diorite mountains (which run from east to west), and the South Khokand syenite mountains (which run east-north-east) meet with the Ferghana diabase mountains (which have a north-west direction), whereby a colossal aggregation of mountain masses takes place, which is increased by the accession of the Pamir granite range (stretching east-north-east). The entire mass of this meeting-point belongs to different mountain systems; but from a distance, from whatever side it be regarded, from east or west, the outline on the horizon of the several concurrent heights gives the impression of an entire meridional chain, which in reality does not exist. M. Muschketow's observations are an important contribution to a knowledge of the physical geography of Central Asia.

ARCTIC EXPLORATION.

(The Times.)

As our readers know, the North-east Passage expedition in the *Fega*, under Professor Nordenskjöld, reached the mouth of the Lena in the latter part of August, and we may every day expect news of its safe arrival at Yokohama. Meantime, Mr. Oscar Dickson, of Gottenburg, the generous supporter of the expedition, has published a letter from Professor Nordenskjöld, giving some of the results obtained in the Novaya Zemlya region. While detained at Yugor Strait, to the south of Novaya Zemlya, a visit was paid to the Samoeide village of Chabarova. Dr. Stuxberg collected many specimens of the fauna of the Strait, including some remarkably large ciliaceous sponges. Many specimens of various kinds of fish were bought from the natives. Dr. Kjellman collected numerous specimens of the flora of the region, and directed his attention specially to the morphology and development of the phanerogamous plants of the Arctic regions, a subject hitherto little studied. Lieutenant Nordqvist devoted his attention to insects, while Dr. Almqvist examined the Samoeides with regard to their sense of colour, and found it normally developed in them. Professor Nordenskjöld bought some costumes, utensils, &c., from the Samoeides, and, after some difficulty, succeeded in obtaining specimens of their "gods." They at first evaded his inquiries, but at last an old Samoeide woman consented to show him some. She drew them from a bag, where they were packed with much care in reindeer skins. Professor Nordenskjöld at

last succeeded in persuading the old woman to sell him several idols at the price of seven roubles. Each of them had a different purpose and aspect. One, for example, was composed of a stone, which fine rags transformed into a kind of doll; another was a marionette with a plate of copper for a face; a third was in fur, adorned with earrings and pearls. In general, these objects of veneration and adoration of the Samoeides resemble the rattle rag dolls of children who are unable to obtain anything better. Chabarova is inhabited in summer by nine Russians, who in spring come from Poustosersk, where are their wives and children. They depart in autumn. During their sojourn these Russians carry on a barter traffic with the Samoeides and engage in fishing and in rearing reindeer. The Russians inhabit little wooden cabins, low and covered with turf, while the indigenes have tents of reindeer skins, similar in form to those of the Lapps. The Russians have formed a company to fish the white dolphin, two out of the 22 shares of the company being reserved for St. Nicholas, to secure his blessing. In spite of this, their enterprise has not been very successful. Dr. Nordenskjöld, guided by one of the Russians, visited one of the sacrificial altars of the Samoeides, who, although baptised Christians, retain many of their old heathen customs. This altar is on a promontory of Vaigatz island, in a cave regarded as sacred by the Samoeides. Notwithstanding that an archimandrite 30 years ago destroyed the original altar and erected a cross, the Samoeides have chosen a neighbouring spot, where Dr. Nordenskjöld saw many signs of recent sacrifices to the native gods, many images of which were fixed around. The island of Vaigatz Dr. Nordenskjöld describes as very regular, about 90 kilometres long and 40 broad. It may be considered as a single plateau, terminating perpendicularly in the sea. The silurian and limestone beds contain many fossils, and the island as a whole forms a good pasturage ground for reindeer.

The members of the Florence Arctic Expedition claim that the practical results of their trip compare favourably with those of any similar enterprise. Captain Tyson states that had supplies been sent on, he and his crew would have cheerfully gone on poleward. The coldest temperature, as recorded by Mr. Sherman, was experienced on January 21st, when the thermometer fell to minus 52 deg. The warmest day was the 8th of June, when the temperature rose to 55½ deg. Fahrenheit. The longest sustained period of cold was from March 5 to 13, when the thermometer ranged 40 deg. below zero. Rapid changes of temperature were noticeable, amounting often to 6 deg. or 3 deg. in an hour. Some very curious specimens of crude art in the nature of Esquimaux drawings were bought, illustrating such native pursuits as hunting the deer, seal, and whale. Mr. Sherman took a number of photographs of native scenery and objects of interest, some of which can be utilised.

ARMAGEDDON. (*Indian Daily News.*)

Prophets of the Cumming school should take heart from the ominous signs of the times we live in, and forecast "coming struggles" as immediate. There is now all the "hurrying to and fro," and the great "increase of knowledge" betokening the end of the world, or the advent of the millennium apparent, and last, though not least, peoples and armies are converging to a point which promises to be as like the Armageddon of Scripture, as anything can be, one is inclined to think, in these later days. To the ancient plains of Mesopotamia—the cradle of the human race—Russians, English, Persians, Arabs, Indians and even Chinese are now turning their attention; their individual ambitions and interests promising, curiously enough, to centre somewhere near the supposed site of the Garden of Eden, and its great rivers the Tigris and Euphrates. Ten, five years ago even, the public would have been incredulous if any one had told them that the Russians were on the Oxus, the Chinese in Kashgar, the English—and it follows the Hindus—in Afghan Turkestan, and the Turks and Mahomedans in active alliance with England; but to-day all these things have either happened, or are shortly about to happen, and the world is not greatly surprised, because the world is beginning to

realize the truth of the axiom that it is always the unexpected which turns up. But public credulity will as yet scarcely swallow Armageddon, though in truth it is quite possible, nay more, it is probable, that a great battle will be fought before many years, before many months perhaps, shall have passed, in Asia Minor, as also that nearly all the nations of the earth shall have some part in it. No thinking man can doubt for a moment that a war between England and Russia is, sooner or later, inevitable. There is no room in Asia for these two powers. The despotic rule of the Russian, and the free institutions of the Englishman, cannot come together without clashing; but it is only a question of time when our frontier will be continuous with Russia. The popular idea of a frontier touching Russia's is this Indian frontier of ours; but it is quite possible that it might fall to the lot of the English nation to have a frontier continuous with Russia's in a new direction, as at Erzeroum, for example, or Mount Ararat. It would not be at all extravagant to suppose an English and Indian Army marching from Baghdad to Erzeroum, or indeed to conceive of all Turkey in Asia Minor as under British protection or Government, in which event nothing would be more probable than a collision with Russia, and the participation of the Persians, Khoords, Arabs, and of all the dwellers of Mesopotamia, in the quarrel. We confess that to most of us it may require the ingenuity of a Cumming or a Baker to bring the Chinese on the scene, but it is a fact that Russia may find a formidable foe or a powerful ally in China some day, now that these two powers are neighbours, and are already quarrelling over their unwelcome proximity. It requires no great stretch of imagination to conceive either China and Russia at war, or Russia and China in close alliance. Both nations have the consanguinity of Tartar blood, and may be expected either to love each other like relations or to hate each other like relatives. And more unlikely things have happened than an irruption of Chinese in Asia Minor. Their presence in California and Australia is probably a more marvellous outcome of these latter days. For China is now the third great power in Asia, counting England first, and Russia second. In the fight that threatens for almost supreme power in Asia, for the Asiatic title of King of Kings, China must play a part. The Chinese will no more be able to keep out of the turmoil than the Hindoos. More unlikely things have occurred than a Chinese "intervention" of affairs in Central Asia, for so, no doubt, the Russians would call Chinese action in that quarter. As for Persia, another ancient Empire, it is destined, most likely, to absorption in the course of the struggle. The independence of Persia will not suit the Russians, if it suits the English, and vice versa; therefore Persia may look out for a private Armageddon of her own, whenever the Russians and the English become next-door neighbours, and are hating each other as sincerely as the musical couples in semi-detached houses do.

But to return to the main issue, let us cease for a moment to believe, or rather to affect to believe, in the regeneration of Turkey. In the event of the sick man never getting over his present bad attack, either Russia or England must claim his Asiatic estate. Russia will probably fight for it rather than give it up, because it is plain that if any one thing can aggravate the Russian Press more than another, it is the idea of English influence in Asia Minor paramount, and an English railway running through the Euphrates Valley. This project is as provoking to the Russian Press and the Russian people as a red rag is to a bull. And, indeed, it is only natural that the Russians should bitterly resent schemes which must re-establish English influence in Persia, in Turkish Arabia, and we might add, in all the kingdoms and countries of the East. Russia does not care to fight if she can avoid arms, and can do her work with the pen better than she could do it with the sword; but one need not be a prophet to predict her fighting on such a quarrel as this,—a quarrel which involves the transfer of Asiatic Turkey, and we might say the sceptre of the East to her hated rival, England.

It may be said that we are hurrying on too fast, and away from Armageddon, for Turkey is not sick unto death yet; the doctors at all events "have hopes." But doctors' hopes

are often fallacious, and a sick empire cannot, any more than a paralytic man, withstand repeated and enfeebling attacks on the constitution. In the common course of nature, the sick man will go some day; and then there will be a great fight over and on his property, though whether that battle will be Armageddon or not, we may safely leave it to time to determine. The battle cannot, however, be very far from some of the sites in Asia Minor which speculative persons have assigned to Armageddon, because, as we have said, the interests of many nations will converge where three empires now touch—Ararat.

A most curious consideration of the discussion is, the return of war to the ancient battle-fields of the world's history. It is evident that the unfortunate "low countries," once the fashionable theatre of war, have gone out of favor with Bellona, and that the lady characteristically returns to old scenes of strife from new ones. Is this an indication of life or of death for the oldest countries in the world? The prophets will tell us that Armageddon implies the end of all things as they now are; and at times we would fain credit the prophets. But it is possible that there may be a great revival without miraculous intervention, and that a battle may be fought with the end of restoring to down-trodden peoples and moribund countries, freedom and life. If England, for instance, is destined to become that supreme Asiatic power which Russia desires to be of all things, there will be a great future for the peoples of the East—a political millennium. We shall waken the old countries of the world out of their long sleep, and bring them all the wonders of a new birth of regeneration. Perhaps it is lucky for them that they do not quite recognise the fact that their future even now trembles in the balance between English freedom and enlightenment, and a worse despotism than perhaps any they have ever yet endured—that of Russia.

Clippings.

The only Gold Medal awarded at the Paris Exhibition, 1878, to any maker of Tin Plates of Sheet Iron was awarded to E. P. & W. Baldwin, Wilden Iron Works, near Stourport. —*Advt.*

A return recently issued shows that in the year ended 31st March, 1878, the Excise and Customs duty from spirits in the United Kingdom was £20,075,928; while the duty on malt produced £7,721,549; on wine, £1,628,295; the Excise duty on sugar used in brewing, £526,208; Excise licences on brewers and malsters and for the sale of beer, spirits, tobacco, and wine, £1,941,912; and the tobacco duty, £8,006,836. The total revenue from these sources is £40,504,600, to which England contributes £29,726,753; Scotland, £5,569,594; and Ireland, £5,208,253. The estimated population of England on 30th June last was 24,554,397; Scotland, 3,593,929; Ireland 5,433,640—total, 33,581,966.—*The Times.*

When Baron Liebig stated that his discovery of Extract of Meat (resulting from the analysis of upwards of sixty sorts of meat) would prove one of the most beneficial to mankind of his various discoveries, he had no conception of the enormous extent of consumption which the future would develop, nor of the succession of gold medals, diplomas of honour, and other distinctions which would be awarded to the Liebig Company, to whom he gave the exclusive use of his name. From a few hundred Bavarian oxen, which were originally sufficient to supply the continental demand, the total of cattle since used by the Company exceeds 1,500,000 head, and there are comparatively few households which do not avail themselves of Liebig Company's Extract of Meat. At the Paris Exhibition of 1867 Baron Liebig himself was honoured with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, and the Company with the Gold Medals, one as founders of an entirely new branch of industry, and the second for best quality of their extract. At the present Paris Exhibition the gold medal, being the first prize, was awarded for best quality. This brings up the number of first prizes and distinctions carried at all exhibitions since the Company's existence to nine gold medals and diplomas of honour.—*Morning Post.*

EXPORT OF TEAS FROM SHANGHAI AND RIVER PORTS.—SEASON 1878-9.

TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.						TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.—Continued.					
VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.	VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.
			Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.				Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Glencagles	May 24	London	21,464.33	.....	21,464.33	Hesperia	s.s. Aug 31	London	529.28	.....	259.29
Londoun Castle ..	" 26	"	20,043.24	.....	20,043.24	"	" 31	Hamburg	25.71	.....	25.71
Anchises	" 24	"	327.72	326.18	653.90	Kashgar	" 31	London	1,791.43	1,721.23	3,512.66
Lombardy	" 25	"	392.87	.....	392.87	"	" 31	Venice	1.30	.....	1.30
"	" 25	Bombay	.....	89.38	89.38	"	" 31	Bombay	2.66	48.32	50.98
Ocean King	" 29	London	19,092.00	.....	19,092.00	Iraouaddy	Sept. 7	London	34.00	0.45	34.45
Glenartney	" 29	"	17,775.19	.....	17,775.19	"	" 7	Bombay	.....	26.46	26.46
Radnorshire	"	"	16,385.45	.....	16,385.45	Altona	" 13	London	4,370.00	254.28	4,624.28
Glencarn	June 1	"	13,699.74	.....	13,699.74	Glaucus	" 14	"	1,725.44	163.22	1,888.66
Sindh	" 1	Marseilles	12.67	.....	12.67	Khedive	" 14	"	3,930.72	342.25	4,272.97
Sarpedon	"	London	17,596.40	.....	17,596.40	"	" 14	Bombay	112.80	179.20	292.00
Stad Haarlem	" 6	"	19,047.73	.....	19,047.73	Serapis	s.v. 18	London	8,473.18	.....	8,473.18
Thibet	" 8	"	3,831.96	.....	3,831.96	Titania	s.s. 19	"	6,011.96	.....	6,011.96
"	" 8	Hamburg	1.20	.....	1.20	Sindh	" 21	"	.....	107.76	107.76
"	" 8	Bombay	0.75	39.62	40.37	"	" 21	Bombay	.....	32.51	32.51
Afghan	" 10	London	18,598.93	.....	18,598.93	Ulysses	" 25	London	4,721.81	920.71	5,642.52
Hankow	" 13	"	23,067.06	.....	23,067.06	Hindostan	Oct. 3	Hongkong	.....	30.02	30.02
Orestes	" 13	"	1,280.93	.....	1,280.93	"	" 3	London	.....	396.58	396.58
N'veau Mondell s.v.	" 13	Nicolajefsk	1,548.87	.....	1,548.87	"	" 3	Bombay	.....	202.92	202.92
Argyle	s.s. 18	London	11,472.18	.....	11,472.18	Priam	" 3	London	1,240.83	480.70	1,721.53
Yangtse	" 15	"	441.15	.....	441.15	Syria	" 9	"	4,231.47	404.24	4,635.71
"	" 15	Marseilles	34.22	.....	34.22	Diomed	" 9	"	63.76	338.40	402.16
Menelaus	" 21	London	3,443.14	.....	3,443.14	Tigre	" 10	"	65.72	238.74	304.46
Sanda	" 22	"	301.92	.....	301.92	"	" 10	Bombay	.....	53.11	53.11
"	" 22	Bombay	6.21	35.54	41.75	Venetia	" 17	London	.....	771.26	771.26
Coriolanus	s.v. 25	London	11,460.13	.....	11,460.13	"	" 17	Bombay	.....	63.28	63.28
Patroclus	s.s. 27	"	3,742.82	.....	3,742.82	Sarpedon	" 19	London	473.46	882.58	1,356.04
"	" 27	Hamburg	3.20	.....	3.20	Yangtsé	" 23	"	.....	209.35	209.35
Ava	" 29	London	227.89	36.00	263.89	"	" 23	Bombay	.....	34.30	34.30
"	" 29	Marseilles	11.39	.....	11.39	Nizam	" 31	London	294.89	22.56	317.45
Susos	July 6	London	2,248.79	369.25	2,618.04	"	" 31	Bombay	.....	64.62	64.62
Teheran	" 6	"	5,152.54	706.87	5,859.41	Deucalion	" 31	London	1,215.66	402.44	1,618.10
"	" 6	Dunedin	13.59	.....	13.59	Glenfalloch	Nov. 2	"	103.34	110.51	213.85
"	" 6	Bombay	27.41	.....	27.41	Ava	" 7	Bombay	.....	40.90	40.90
Achilles	" 9	London	3,448.04	.....	3,448.04	Antenor	" 9	Port Said	85.15	.....	85.15
"	" 9	Odessa	68.70	.....	68.70	"	" 9	London	2,287.71	551.83	2,839.54
Viking	" 10	London	20,346.69	1,553.81	21,900.50	Gwalior	" 14	Bombay	.....	279.49	279.49
Dago	" 12	"	15,452.59	484.43	15,937.02	"	" 14	London	2,280.72	473.61	2,754.33
Amazon	" 13	"	398.47	506.39	904.86	Orestes	" 18	"	1,259.06	.....	1,259.06
Glengyle	" 17	"	14,595.40	.....	14,595.40	Amazon	" 21	"	213.65	.....	213.65
Ferona	"	"	12,021.98	.....	12,021.98	Thermopylae	s.v. 27	"	6,463.56	399.70	6,863.26
Kolga	" 17	Nicolajefsk	1,405.18	.....	1,405.18	Agamemnon	s.s. 29	"	290.33	917.43	1,207.76
Stentor	" 19	London	3,955.01	373.36	4,328.37	Lombardy	" 28	Bombay	.....	269.09	269.09
Cairnamuir	" 21	"	15,049.57	.....	15,049.57	"	" 28	London	1,458.59	442.87	1,901.46
Malabar	" 24	"	9,940.92	880.42	10,821.34	Anadyr	Dec. 5	Marseilles	4.82	.....	4.82
Zambesi	" 20	"	4,905.32	1,167.37	6,072.69	"	" 5	London	1.50	617.21	618.71
"	" 20	Bombay	36.98	32.27	69.25	Glencarn	" 11	"	783.47	1,430.28	2,213.75
Hecker	" 20	London	3,313.89	305.29	3,620.38	Geelong	" 14	"	0.90	430.05	430.95
Standard	" 26	"	4,424.88	36.56	4,461.44	Patroclus	" 14	"	.....	2,866.38	2,866.38
Anadyr	" 27	"	.....	0.78	637.69	Glenroy	" 14	"	76.81	9,624.20	9,701.01
Flours Castle	Aug. 5	"	20,234.52	.....	20,234.52	Atma	s.v. 20	"	48.66	3.77	52.43
Surat	" 3	"	3,585.59	602.94	4,188.53	Peiho	s.s. 21	"	.....	502.94	502.94
"	" 3	Bombay	.....	23.25	23.25	Achilles	" 28	"	26.24	2,919.23	2,945.47
Teucer	" 9	London	5,659.69	33.50	5,693.19	Teheran	" 28	Bombay	.....	12.42	12.42
Peiho	" 10	"	2.23	430.61	423.84	"	" 28	London	945.81	662.42	1,608.23
City of Baltimore ..	" 12	"	5,605.87	68.13	5,674.00	Sindh	Jan. 4	"	.....	858.50	858.50
Pekin	" 18	"	4,210.04	1,332.61	5,542.65	Stentor	" 11	"	311.65	2,294.83	2,606.48
Mikado	" 20	"	4,441.02	386.31	4,827.33	Mongolia	" 10	"	514.40	1,263.84	1,783.24
Djennah	" 24	"	0.42	440.29	440.71	"	" 10	Bombay	0.40	55.56	55.96
Windhover	s.v. 31	"	8,722.56	138.07	8,860.63						
Ajax	s.s. 31	"	1,244.39	474.71	1,719.10						
Strathleven	" 31	"	6,240.05	559.25	6,799.30						
					Total						
											459,320.73 48,925.58 508,246.31

EXPORT OF TEAS FROM SHANGHAI AND RIVER PORTS.—SEASON 1878-9.

TO JAPAN AND COAST PORTS AND AMERICA.						TO JAPAN AND COAST PORTS AND AMERICA.—Continued.					
VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.	VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.
			Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.				Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Tokio Maru s.s.	June 4	Nagasaki	298.76	.....	298.76	Gleniffer s.s.	Aug 31	New York	285.94	2,528.51	2,814.00
" "	" 4	Hio	4.16	.....	4.16	Nagoya Maru .. "	Sep. 10	"	1.64	493.60	495.24
" "	" 4	Yokohama	4.85	.....	4.85	" "	" 10	Chicago	212.70	570.46	783.16
Hiroshima Maru ..	" 8	New York	236.13	.....	236.13	" "	" 10	San F'isco	6.30	115.23	121.53
" "	" 8	Boston	141.43	.....	141.43	Merionethshire ..	" 19	New York	687.04	9,185.70	9,872.74
Orestes "	" 8	New York	172.07	.....	172.07	City of Santiago ..	" 26	"	.....	3,517.72	3,517.72
Nagoya Maru.....	" 20	"	842.21	.....	842.21	Hiroshima Maru ..	Oct. 2	Chicago	16.34	960.37	976.71
" "	" 20	Boston	88.02	.....	88.02	" "	" 2	San F'isco	9.00	112.69	121.69
Menelaus "	" 21	New York	44.21	.....	44.21	" "	" 2	New York	.....	699.40	699.40
Patroclus "	" 27	"	204.33	.....	204.33	" "	" 2	Yokohama	5.54	.....	5.54
Saikio Maru "	" 25	Yokohama	14.80	.....	14.80	Ocean King "	" 10	New York	33.97	6,807.34	6,841.31
Tokio Maru "	July 2	New York	130.07	.....	130.07	Glencagles "	" 15	"	.....	3,980.98	3,980.98
" "	" 2	Chicago	76.91	.....	76.91	Genkai Maru..... "	" 14	"	.....	440.01	440.01
" "	" 2	San F'isco	235.39	.....	235.39	" "	" 14	Chicago	.....	487.93	487.93
" "	" 2	Nagasaki	3.30	.....	3.30	Braemar Castle ..	" 29	New York	2.27	6,038.69	6,038.69
Anchises "	" 9	New York	1.65	.....	1.65	Hiroshima Maru ..	" 29	"	930.43	.....	930.43
Glencorchy "	" 16	"	1,206.57	1,210.07	2,416.64	Genkai Maru "	Nov 15	San F'isco	.....	30.01	30.01
Saikio Maru "	" 22	"	70.98	334.54	405.52	Glenfinlas "	" 15	New York	0.18	7,692.80	7,692.98
" "	" 22	Chicago	.....	111.32	111.32	Haydn Brown..... s.v.	" 22	"	416.40	1,647.65	2,064.05
" "	" 22	San F'isco	.....	129.48	129.48	Glenartney s.s.	" 29	"	22.32	7,405.02	7,427.34
Gordon Castle.....	" 27	New York	1,093.68	1,852.37	2,946.05	Nagoya Maru..... "	Dec. 3	"	.....	881.38	881.38
Hiroshima Maru ..	Aug. 6	"	1.01	692.15	693.16	J. R. Worcester s.v.	" 13	"	.....	4,773.15	4,773.18
" "	" 6	Chicago	51.50	.....	51.50	Glenlyon s.s.	" 28	"	.....	5,946.17	5,946.17
Saikio Maru "	" 22	New York	208.40	207.12	415.52						
" "	" 22	Chicago	.....	784.94	784.94	Total			7,777.86	69,616.56	77,394.42
" "	" 22	San F'isco	17.81	1.73	19.54						

SHANGHAI OPIUM AND SILK RETURNS FOR SEASON COMMENCING JUNE 1, 1878.

FROM IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS.

SILK.

	To GREAT BRITAIN.	To MARSEILLES AND CONTINENT.	To AMERICA.	To HONG- KONG, COAST PORTS, &c.	TOTAL CHINA.	JAPAN TRANSSHIPPED.	GRAND TOTAL.
Total as per last Report	Bales. 12,231	Bales. 25,411	Bales. 2,394	Bales. 1,794	Bales. 42,830	Bales. ..	Bales. 42,830
Subsequent Shipments	577	155	92	35	859	..	859
Total....	12,808	25,566	2,486	1,829	43,689	..	43,689

OPIUM

RETURN FOR WEEK ENDED 11th JANUARY, 1879.

		MALWA.		PATNA.		BENARES.		PERSIAN.	
IMPORTED		Cheats.	Weight.	Cheats.	Weight.	Cheats.	Weight.	Cheats.	Weight.
Imported and stored on board Receiving Vessels	923½	923.50	140	165.00	..	..	2	2.00	..
Imported and transhipped for re-exportation without being stored on board	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Receiving Vessels or landed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Imported direct to the shore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total.....	923½	923.50	140	165.00	..	..	2	2.00	..
Landed from Receiving Vessels and intended chiefly for local consumption	42	42.00	188	225.00	100	130.80	6	6.00	..

Description.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kiukiang.	Hankow.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Ningpo.	Wenchow.	Foochow.	Hongkong.	Total.
RE-EXPORTED.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.	Cheats. Weight.
Malwa	245 245.00	89 59.00	31 31.00	29 29.00	25 25.00	.. ..	.. ..	159½ 159.50	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	578½ 578.50
Patna	13 15.60	1 1.20	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	11 13.20	1 1.20	.. ..	.. ..	26 31.20
Benares	20 24.00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	5 6.00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	25 30.00
Persian	10 10.00	3 3.00	4 4.00	2 2.00	2 2.00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	21 21.00
Total..	288 294.60	93 92.20	35 35.00	31 31.00	27 27.00	.. ..	.. ..	175½ 175.70	1 1.20	.. ..	.. ..	650½ 660.70

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHANGHAI, 16th JANUARY, 1879.

PIECE GOODS.—There has again been an active market for Cottons, all through the week, and considerable sales have to be noted, goods have been purchased freely by the Tientsin men, whilst Hankow has been taking a fair quantity of Shirtings and Drills; and Japan, common \$1-lbs. Shirtings; our local dealers also encouraged by the moderate stocks and cheap prices, have bought a lot of goods on speculation, mostly for delivery during next month; the largest sales were made last week to one Hong, who it is reported bought some 90,000 pieces of goods, partly here and partly to arrive, within one to two months, comprising, it is said, 20,000 pieces 9.12-lbs. FFF Grey Shirtings, 20,000 pieces \$1-lbs. three-Legs, and 10,000 pieces 6 and 7-lbs. Red Pheasant, with 20,000 pieces 64-reed White Shirtings, and 20,000 pieces 8 lbs. Hand and Branch T. Cloths; the prices are not given. Almost all kinds of goods have been dealt in, and the requirements for the first Tientsin steamers must now be mostly satisfied, but the Newchwang buyers have yet to be supplied, they however not wanting their goods for about two months yet are content to wait, their purchases having so far been limited. A further rise of about 1 candareen has been established on common and medium \$1-lbs. Grey Shirtings, and common are now scarce and wanted; Drills and Sheetings, both English and American are also rather higher, and fancy goods have decidedly improved.

Woolens have somewhat shared in the activity, Camlets at Auction showing a rise of 3 to 4 mace per piece, and Scarlet Long Ells 1 mace.

GREY SHIRTINGS, \$1-lbs.—Sales reported are 80,000 pieces, including Dewhurst's Eagle at T1.71, Hand and Branch at T1.67, Gun stand at T1.63, Collie Lion and Blue Stag at T1.62, Red Stag and Red Joss at T1.57½, Three-Man at T1.55/6, Red Pheasant (mildewed) at T1.53½, Magpie at T1.52½, Buffalo, Pigeon and Stag Head at T1.51½, Fish at T1.47, Warrior at T1.46, Cock at T1.44, Largo Eagle at T1.43½ and Dragon at T1.42; at the close common qualities are mostly wanted, and being now scarce are worth more than above quotations, dealers are however prepared to operate in any quantities if long enough delivery is granted.

7-lbs.—Sales are 3,000 pieces of Lion and Flag, and Fish at T1.27½, and Lie Eagle at T1.20, these good are quiet, and without any change.

6-lbs.—The only sale is 750 pieces Blue Fish at T1.15; the unsold stock is now getting limited. (Besides this there are the sales to arrive of 6 and 7-lbs.)

9.12-lbs.—Sales are 33,000 pieces (including 20,000 pieces F F F as above, and) Blue Joss at T2.15, Collie Lion at T2.12, Gold Elephant at T2.07½, Red Stag at T2.10, Green ditto at T1.92½, Blue Pagoda at T1.97½, and a fair demand has ruled through the week.

T-CLOTHS.—7-lbs.—Sales are 21,750 pieces of Red Stag at T1.13, Double Cash at T1.11, Old Man at T1.08½, Eagle at T1.07½, Red Eagle at T1.03½; speculators amongst the natives have been the chief buyers, but best goods are enquired for for Foochow, with but little suitable offering.

8-lbs.—Sales are 4,500 pieces of Dewhurst's M T X X at T1.48 and Fish at T1.40, also 20,000 pieces as above.

WHITE SHIRTINGS.—Sales are, besides the 20,000 pieces as above, 5,000 pieces of 64-reed Blue Bird at T1.75, and 1,000 pieces of 56-reed Black Stag at T1.50; common qualities, and low reeds are much wanted and asked for at higher rates.

DRILLS.—Sales are 10,000 pieces of Levita's Double Dragon 14-lbs. at T1.87 to 1.87½, ditto 13½-lbs. at T1.85, Dragon R at T1.82½ and Horseman at T1.77½ to 1.78 these goods are still in active demand, and these rates are freely offered for large quantities, if the delivery is long enough. In American, the only sale, is thirty bales P M C D at T2.72½ for cash, the market is now cleared of common chops, and nothing is offering at under T2.70; there are plenty of buyers, but they do not want their goods at once, and demand long delivery.

SHEETINGS.—English are saleable at T2.05 to 2.10 for 15-lbs, very little has however been done; of American sales are 3,000 pieces Indian Head at T2.70, 1,120 pieces Star at T2.55, and 3,500 pieces Eagle A at T2.44 to 2.45 these goods are now wanted at quotations, but are held for an advance.

JEANS.—Sales are 4,500 pieces 8-lbs. Stag at T1.35, and 800 pieces American Beaver at T2.10.

FANCY GOODS have been wanted; there has been quite a run on 22 inches Black Velvets for Japan, and about 2,500 pieces were sold at T0.13.4 to 0.13½ per yard; Handkerchiefs are decidedly higher and 1,000 dozens 28 inches Blue were sold at T0.43 per dozen, Turkey Red Cambrics show improved rates at Auction, and Cotton Lastings have been wanted for the North.

WOOLLENS.—Camlets have again risen in value at the Auctions, and show a recovery of from 2 to 5 mace per piece, Scarlet Long Ells are about 1 mace higher, Spanish Stripes are without change, 60 pieces H H Scarlet sold at T0.56 per yard.

The Chamber of Commerce has this morning published the Returns of Stocks of Piece Goods on 31st Dec., 1878; they are given below, and appear likely to be fairly correct, with one exception—according to previous statistics, and according to the general ideas of holders, there should be about 300,000 pieces less Grey Shirtings, and 300,000 pieces more T-Cloths in the place than are now given—it will be noticed that on the whole, stocks of Cottons are lighter than last year, whilst stocks of Woolens are heavier.

RETURNS OF STOCKS OF IMPORTS

In Foreign Godowns and at Public Wharves, on 31st December, 1878, as returned by Foreign Firms, including Goods in process of Shipment or Landing.

(The Cargoes of the "Carrick Castle" and "Stentor," discharging on 1st January, are included.)

ARTICLES.	STOCK ON 31st DEC., 1878.	STOCK ON 31st DEC., 1877.	ARTICLES.	STOCK ON 31st DEC., 1878.	STOCK ON 31st DEC., 1877.
Grey Shirtings.....pcs.	927,430	1,670,142	Cotton Lastings.....pcs.	13,728	...
White Shirtings....."	178,203	195,232	Damasks....."	8,161	6,613
American Drills....."	125,160	65,110	Chintzes....."	39,471	52,127
Jeans....."	7,160	15,580	Turkey Reds....."	83,152	36,490
Sheetings....."	61,475	72,330	Velvets....."	25,405	11,267
Shirtings....."	46,118	12,825	Velveteens....."	3,996	2,134
English Drills....."	137,442	115,510	Muslins....."	19,635	Nil.
Jeans....."	38,750	69,960	Dimities....."	4,800	5,400
Sheetings....."	17,792	26,271	Cotton Yarn.....pcs.	1,455	...
Dutch Drills....."	4,260	16,200	Spanish Stripes.....pcs.	8,568	6,756
Jeans....."	10,110	18,980	Medium, Broad & Habit Cloths....."	18,123	18,787
Shirtings....."	13,060	...	Russian Cloths, real and imitation....."	13,247	...
T-Cloths....."	942,287	922,510	Camlets, English....."	14,770	9,780
Handkerchiefs.....doz.	99,930	192,717	Continental....."	980	690
Gentian Shirtings.....pcs.	6,498	3,240	Long Ells....."	21,360	11,540
Spotted Shirtings, White....."	600	2,190	Lastings....."	16,300	14,860
Dyed....."	500	600	Crape Lastings....."	2,688	1,350
Brocades, White....."	500	850	Lustres....."	1,400	2,000
Dyed....."	17,209	9,350	Orleans, Figured....."	21,968	24,880
Printed Twills....."	11,964	...	Plain....."	3,150	2,600

RETURNS OF METALS AND SUNDRIES.

	1878.	1877.		1878.	1877.
Lead.....pcls.	49,653	43,351	Steel.....pcls.	2,565	2,358
Nail Rod Iron....."	102,121	90,523	Bars....."	86	268
Bar Iron....."	10,337	12,160	Tin Plates.....boxes	2,090	5,070
Sheet Iron.....tons	446	240	Quicksilver.....pcls.	84	Nil.
Pig Iron....."	103	630	Kerosine Oil.....cases	138,673	...

	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Gentian.	Lt. Gt.	Black.	Purple.	Green.	Orange.	Mauve.	Ash & Lav.	White.	Total Sales
KIN-MING, 14th inst.												
Camlets C.P.H. p. pce. T	11.96/12.05	12.85/7	12.25	12.10/12	11.21/2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	150	50	50	100	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	370
Long Ells C.P.H. p. pce. T	6.66/8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	300
Lasting, Lion p. pce. T	.....	.....	.....	.....	10.55	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
Elephant p. pce. T	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.60/87½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
S. Stripes C.P.H. p. yd. T	0.51/8.52	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	96	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	96
E-vo, 15th inst.												
Camlets H.D.B. p. pce. T	11.50/4	12.20	11.91/3	11.78	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	50	10	20	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90
Long Ells H.D.B. p. pce. T	6.50/2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	260	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	260
Sp. Stripes " p. yd. T	0.52/2.3	0.49½	0.58½/9.8	.....	0.45	.....	0.49.7	.....	0.53½	.....	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	60	6	30	6	6	.....	6	.....	6	.....	.....	114
YUEN-FONG, 16th inst.												
Camlets S.S.G. p. pce. T	11.32½/40	11.67½/77½	11.60/7½	11.85	11.12½	.....	.....	11.40	10.97½/11	.....	11.10	...
Sales, pcs...	210	60	160	10	20	.....	.....	20	30	.....	20	530
G.G. per pce. T	11.40/2½	11.72½	11.67	.....	.....	.....	.....	11.40	.....	.....	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	50	20	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	120
Long Ells " per pce. T	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
S. Stripes T.T.B. p. yd. T	0.53½/3½	0.53½	0.60½/1	.....	.....	0.48	.....	0.46½	.....	0.50½	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	132	24	60	.....	.....	12	.....	12	.....	12	.....	282
MISCELLANEOUS.												
Sp. Stripes, Horse p. yd. T	0.52.1/2.2	0.54	.....	.....	.....	0.50.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	18	6	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30

AUCTION SALES OF COTTON GOODS—

"Tseang-tac."—13th instant

GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs.	Red Pagoda.	Red Indian Head.	Red Squirrel.	Red Ship.	Total.
Sales, pcs...	£1.57½	£1.52½	£1.51½/1.52	—	= 900 pcs.
6-lbs.	250	250	400	—	
Sales, pcs...	—	—	—	£1.09½/1.09½	= 450 "
9.10-lbs.	—	Blue Indian Head.	—	450	
Sales, pcs...	—	£1.91/1.91½	—	—	= 300 "
7-lbs.	Blue Pagoda.	T.T.X.	Red Tree.	—	
Sales, pcs...	£1.19½	£1.10½	£0.97½/0.98½	—	= 1,000 "
200	200	500	300	—	
DIMITIES—40-inch, at £1.47 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	= 100 "
WHITE SHIRTINGS—Buffalo 64-reed, at £1.67 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	= 100 "

"King Ming."—14th instant—

GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs.	Red Ram.	Blue Ram.	Red Lion.	Blue Lion.	Blue Eagle.	Gold Eagle.	Red Eagle.	Total.
Sales, pcs...	£1.62½/62½	£1.58½/58½	£1.55½/55½	—	£1.57½	—	—	= 4,950 "
750	1,000	3,000	—	200	—	—	—	
Green Peacock.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
7-lbs.	£1.19	—	—	—	—	—	—	= 300 "
Sales, pcs...	300	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BLUE HANKERCHIEFS—28-inch, at £0.41.1 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	= 120 doz.

"Nie Kee."—14th instant—

Joss, 3 to 2½-lbs. Flute Player, 2-lbs.		Fisherman, 2½ to 3½-lbs.		Bull Head, 2 to 2½-lbs. Beaver, 2½-lbs. to 3½-lbs.		Total.
TURKEY RED CAMBRICS—	£1.12½/22	£1.17	£1.22½/54½	£1.16½/1.24	£1.38½/1.51	
Sales, pcs.	280	81	343	133	460	=1,254 pcs.

"Yuen-fong."—16th instant—

GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs. House, at £1.43½ to 1.43½—1,800 pcs.; Lighthouse, at £1.43½ to 1.43½—1,000 pcs.	=2,800	„
Ditto. 7-lbs. Lighthouse, at £1.23	=1,000	„
WHITE SHIRTINGS—64-reed Lighthouse, at £1.60½ to 1.60½	=1,000	„

SUNDRY AUCTIONS—

TURKEY RED CAMBRICS—Man and Horse 2 to 2½-lbs. at £1.08 to 1.19; Jar, 2½ to 2½-lbs. at £1.15½ to 1.31½	=1,800	„
VELVETS—22-in. Woman, at £13.62½	= 210	„
VELVETEENS—18-in. Stag, at £0.11½ and 26-in. Stag at £0.17.1	= 120	„

ARTICLES.	QUOTATIONS.		ARTICLES.	QUOTATIONS.	
<i>Cotton Piece Goods.</i>	<i>T.m.c.</i>	<i>T.m.c.</i>		<i>T.m.c.</i>	<i>T.m.c.</i>
G. E. GREY SHIRTINGS—			BROAD CLOTH.....per yard	1.25	@ 1.60
38½ yds. 39 in. 6-lbs. per piece	1.10	@ 1.20	CAMELTS—		
7-lbs.	1.19	1.40	English, SS, 56 yds. 31 in. Assorted.per piece	10.8.0	„ 12.0.0
8½ to 8½-lbs.	1.42	1.71	LONG ELLS—		
Dewhurst XX	1.73	.....	Scarlet, 24 yds. 31 in. 12-lbs:	6.0.5	„ 6.7.0
9 to 9½-lbs. nom.	1.90	2.00	Assorted	6.0.0	„ 6.3.0
9.12 to 10-lbs. common quality	1.92	2.35	LASTINGS, 30 yds. 31 in.	7.5.0	„ 11.0.0
best quality.....	2.40	2.55	CRAPE LASTINGS, 30 yds. 31 in. Asst.	3.7.0	„ 7.5.0
G. E. WHITE SHIRTINGS—			LUSTRES, Assorted nom.	2.7.0	„ 3.2.5
40 yds. 36 in. 56 reed	1.40	1.50	ORLEANS, Figured, 30 yds. 30 in. Asst.	3.1.5	„ 3.5.5
60 reed nom.	1.42	1.52	Plain, 30 yds. 31 in. Black.	3.0.5	„ 3.3.5
64 reed	1.55	1.65	<i>Metals and Sundries.</i>		
64 reed best	1.70	1.90	JAPAN COPPER—Slabs per picul	15.6.0	„ 15.9.0
66 to 72 reed	1.90	2.10	„ Ore.....	14.2.5	„ 14.6.0
best	2.10	2.60	QUICKSILVER.....	48.5.0	„ 49.0.0
AMERICAN DRILLS—			TIN PLATES—14 x 10 per box	3.9.0	„ 4.1.0
40 yds. 30 in. 14-lbs.....	2.65	2.75	STEEL.....per picul	2.8.0	„ 2.9.0
AMERICAN JEANS—			Bamboo	3.2.0	„ 3.4.0
30 yds. 30 in. 6½ to 8-lbs.	1.40	2.10	TIN, Fong Hing	15.6.0	„ 15.7.0
AMERICAN SHEETINGS—			Quang-dia	15.0.0	„ 15.1.0
40 yds. 40 in. 14-lbs. best	2.55	2.70	Fok Chok	15.2.0	„ 15.2.5
ENGLISH DRILLS—			HOOP IRON per ton	2.3.0	„ 2.5.0
40 yds. 30 in. 14 to 15-lbs.	1.7.7	1.9.0	PIC IRON per picul	16.0.0	„ 18.0.0
best	2.0.0	2.2.0	IRON WIRE, Nos. 11 a 14 per picul	4.3.0	„
ENGLISH JEANS—			„ „ 11 a 21 per picul	4.4.0	„
30 yds. 30 in. 8 to 8½-lbs.	1.3.0	1.8.0	„ „ 15 a 25 per picul	5.1.0	„
ENGLISH SHEETINGS—			IRON—Nail Rod—		
40 yds. 40 in. 14 a 16-lbs.	1.9.7	2.2.0	Dawes' Best per picul	1.9.5	„
DUTCH DRILLS—			H. Rogers, Sons & Co.	1.8.5	„ 1.9.0
30 in. 40 yds.....	2.0.5	2.1.0	M.M. Crown.....	1.7.5	„ 1.8.0
DUTCH JEANS—			Belgian.....	1.6.5	„ 1.7.0
30 in. 40 yds.....	1.6.0	1.9.0	Flat and Round per picul	2.0.0	„ 2.3.0
T-CLOTHS—			Do. Belgian.....	1.8.0	„ 1.9.0
6-lbs. 24 yds. 32 in. Ordinary, ...	0.8.6	0.9.2	LEAD, common brands nom. per picul	4.1.5	„ 4.2.5
7-lbs.	0.9.4	1.0.3	L B.....	4.3.0	„ 4.4.0
7-lbs. Mexican per picul	1.0.5	1.5.0	SUGAR—		
8 a 8½-lbs. 36 in.	1.2.3	1.6.5	Black, common per picul	2.9.0	„ 3.3.0
XX and best per picul	1.7.0	1.9.0	Formosa per picul	3.3.0	„ 3.6.0
HANDKERCHIEFS, Blue, 28 in. to 32 in. per doz.	0.4.1	0.5.5	White, No. 1 per picul	7.2.0	„ 7.4.0
Brown, 28 in., nom.	0.4.0	0.4.2	„ No. 2 per picul	6.1.5	„ 6.2.0
GENTIAN SHIRTINGS per piece	2.0.0	2.4.0	„ No. 3 per picul	5.7.5	„ 5.9.0
BROCADES, White, 40 yds. 36 in., nom.	1.6.0	1.7.0	PEPPER—Black per picul	6.0.0	„ 6.1.0
Dyed, Assorted per piece	2.3.0	2.6.0	White per picul	11.5.0	„ 12.0.0
DAMASKS, Assorted, 40 yds. 26 in., nom. per piece	3.8.0	4.2.0	RATTANS—Common per picul	2.2.0	„ 2.6.0
CRINTZ, Assorted, 28 yds. 28 in.	1.3.0	1.4.5	Good to fine per picul	3.0.0	„ 4.0.0
Blue per picul	1.1.8	1.2.3	Rest per picul	4.5.0	„ 5.0.0
Brown nom.	1.1.5	1.2.5	SAPAN WOOD—		
Scarlet.....nom.	1.3.0	1.5.0	3 pieces to the picul per picul	2.6.0	„ 2.7.0
TURKEY REDS, 24 yds. 32 in. 2½ to 3-lbs.	1.1.0	1.7.0	6 & 7 „ „ „ & inf. per picul	1.5.0	„ 1.7.0
VELVETS, Black, 22 in. per yard	0.1.3½	0.1.6½	SANDALWOOD, South Sea per picul	8.0.0	„ 12.0.0
VELVETEENS, Black, 18 in. per yard	0.1.1	0.1.3	Timor per picul	3.1.0	„ 3.4.0
26 in. per yard	0.1.5	0.1.8	Malabar per picul	17.0.0	„ 18.5.0
MUSLINS, 12 yds. 42 in. nom.....per piece	0.6.0	0.6.8	WINDOW GLASS—		
DIMITIES, 12 yds. 36 in. per piece	1.0.0	1.2.0	Large nom. per box	2.1.5	„ 2.4.0
41 in. per piece	1.2.0	1.5.0	Small.....per box	1.8.0	„ 1.8.5
YARN, Cotton, Nos. 28 a 32 per bale	65.0.0	80.0.0	KEROSENE—Devco's per case	1.6.8	„ 1.7.2½
SPANISH STRIPES, Assorted.....per yard	0.4.8	0.5.5	COTTON—Shanghai per picul	10.4.0	„ 11.4.0
MEDIUM and HABIT CLOTHS per yard	0.7.0	1.0.5	FLINT STONES per picul	0.4.5	„

METALS.—Nothing has been done in either Iron or Lead, and quotations are without change, with L.B. Lead firm.

KEROSENE OIL.—There is no life in the market, speculation having died out, and prices are nominally the same as last week.

EXPORTS.

SILK.—We quote the following from Mr. W. T. Phipps' circular :—Actual settlements this week are within 1,000 bales, and the market although slightly weaker as regards tael price is unaltered so far as the sterling cost is concerned, with 6 months' sight bills nearly 1d. higher than last mail's quotations. Natives have been busy with their settling of accounts, and business is unlikely to be active again for ten days or a fortnight. Silk continues to arrive in sufficient quantity from the river and inland to prevent any reduction in the stock, which still remains at about 12,000 bales.

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

JANUARY 17, 1879.

ARRIVAL during the week.—January 14th, British steamer *Hector*, from Liverpool.DEPARTURES during the week.—January 11th, P. & O. steamer *Mongolia*, with the English mails, &c. ; British steamer *Stentor*, for London.The M. M. mail steamer *Iraoudy* takes about 1,720 bales of Silk and about 30 tons of Tea.

EXCHANGE.—On London, Telegraphic Transfers, 4s. 11½d. Bank Bills, 6 months' sight, 5s. 1½d. First-class Credits to Bank, 5s. 1½d. Private and Documentary, 5s. 1½d. to 5s. 1½d. On Paris, Bank, demand, 6.32. Private 6.50. On India, Bombay Bank, demand, Rs. 302 to 303½; Calcutta, Bank, demand, Rs. 302 to 303½. On Hongkong, Bank Bills, demand, 27½ to 27½ per cent. disc. Private, 15 days' sight, 28 per cent. disc. Bullion, Gold Bars, Peking, Shanghai Tls. 191.25 per bar of 10 Tls. Shanghai weight. Bar Silver, Shanghai Tls. 111.20 per 100 taels Canton weight. Mexican dollars, Shanghai Tls. 72.275 per 100. Copper Cash, 1,450 per tael.

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 17th January, 1879.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Several lots have changed hands, chiefly to cover short sales, at 47% premium, and exchange 72½.

Shanghai Steam Navigation Co.—Buyers offer £15.45, ex dividend, while shares are held for £15.75.

China Coast Steam Navigation Co.—Business was done after the issue of our last report at £100½ for cash, and £104 for 31st March.

Shanghai Dock Co.—Shares have changed hands at £238, ex dividend.

Footung Dock Co.—Business is reported at £98, ex dividend.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Shares have been freely offered at previous quotations, without finding buyers. A sale is reported to-day at £140, ex the dividend due on Monday.

China Fire Insurance Co.—Shares have been placed at £192.

Lycium Theatre Ordinary Debentures have been sold at £13.

Chinese Imperial Government Loan of 1877.—Bonds were wanted at £110 a few days ago. Exchange has since risen, and bonds have been sold at £109.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVIDEND, &c.		CASH QUOTATIONS.
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When pd. or due.	
<i>Bank.</i>									
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	40,000	\$125	\$125	\$1,200,000	\$19,243.05	30 June 78	* £1	20 Aug. 78	47% prem., ex. 72½
<i>Steamer Companies.</i>									
Shanghai Steam Navigation Co. (in Liquidation)	22,500	£100	£10.50	.....	.....	30 Dec. 77	Return of T. 2 on capital.	15 Jan. 79	15.45
China Coast Steam Navigation Co.	5,000	£100	£100	£66,273.42	£11,979.42	31 Dec. 77	+ 7 %	15 Mar. 78	100½
Shanghai Tug Boat Association	900	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	4 %	21 Sep. 78	125
<i>Docks.</i>									
Shanghai Dock Co.	440	£500	£500	£10,109.90	.....	30 June 78	* 2 %	8 Jan. 79	238
Footung Dock Co.	950	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	* 5 %	9 Jan. 79	96
<i>Gas.</i>									
Shanghai Gas Co.	1,500	£100	£100	£8,640.30	.....	31 Dec. 77	* 5 %	20 Jan. 79	145
Compagnie du Gaz	500	£100	£100	£4,515.76	£1,033.37	31 Dec. 77	* 5½ %	18 July 78	160
<i>Insurance (Marine.)</i>									
China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited	600	1,666.67	\$500	\$225,000.00	\$92,935.52	30 Apl. 78	12 %	31 July 78	1,550
North-China Ins. Co., 1875/77				.....	£542,051.14	30 June 78	£140	2 July 78	30
Do. 1878	1,000	£2,000	£600	.....	£446,369.62	30 June 78	.....	.....	1,300
Union In. Society of Canton	500	\$2,500	\$500	\$262,132.10	\$21,091.40	31 Dec. 77	+ \$113.27	30 Sep. 78	1,700
Yangtze Insurance Association	1,200	£350	£350	£334,144.48	£74,285.99	15 Apr. 78	* 6 %	20 Jan. 79	725
Chinese Insurance Co., Limited	1,500	\$1,000	\$200	\$74,133.82	.....	30 Dec. 76	* 6 %	1 Jan. 79	330 nominal.
<i>Insurance (Fire.)</i>									
Hongkong Fire In. Co., Limited	2,000	\$1,000	\$200	\$632,302.00	\$260,157.58	30 Dec. 77	+ \$56.75 p.sh.	20 Feb. 78	840
China Fire In. Co., Limited	4,000	\$500	\$100	\$346,896.00	\$145,719.72	30 Dec. 77	+ 12 %	31 Dec. 77	192
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>									
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co.	2,150	£100	£100	£5,000.00	£557.91	30 Dec. 77	* 5 %	15 Aug. 78	151½

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Nominal Value of Bonds or Debentures.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1872	£ 28,700.00	£ 100.00	S %	30th April & 31st Oct.	} £104½ nominal.
Do. 1873	£ 21,000.00	£ 100.00	"	30th June & 31st Dec.	
Do. 1875	£ 42,500.00	£ 100.00	"	30th June & 31st Dec.	
Do. 1878	£ 24,000.00	£ 100.00	"	28th Feb. & 31st Aug.	
Lycium Theatre Ordinary Debentures..	£ 17,000.00	£ 25.00	"	30th June.	£ 13
Do. Preference do.	£ 5,362.50	£ 37.50	5 %	31st Dec.	£ 20
Chinese Imperial Government Loan 1874	£ 627,615	£ 100	S %	30th June & 31st Dec.	£101
Do. do. 1877	£1,604,276	£ 100	S %	28th Feb. & 31st Aug.	£109

* For half-year. † For year.

J. P. BISSET & Co.

THE WEATHER has continued fine during the week, but much too mild to be seasonable. The thermometer has ranged from 37 to 60.